ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN

by NisiOisiN and SHIOMIYA Iruka

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Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken v3 c9

Credits

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原作 西尾維新
漫画 シオミヤイルカ
キャラクター原案 竹
零崎双識の人間試験
3

0の人間試験

ゼロザキソウシキ

3

原作 西尾維新
（講談社ノベルス「零崎双識の人間試験」より）

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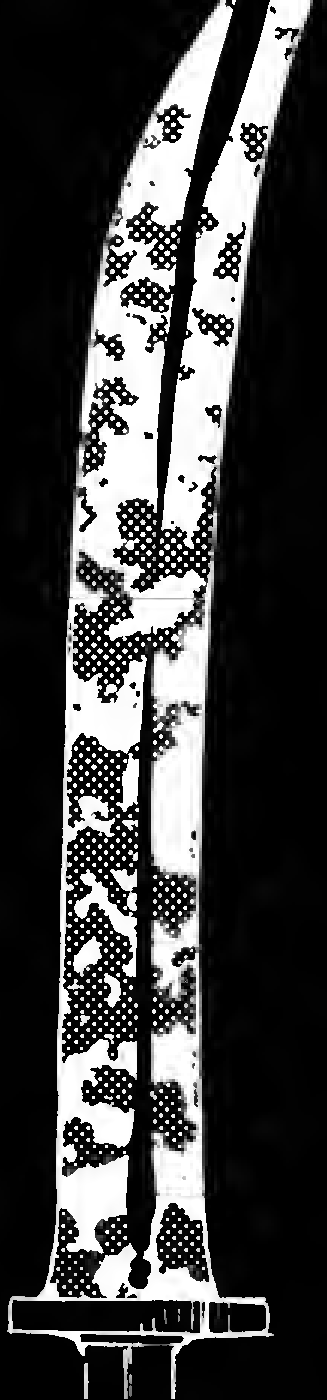
キャラクター原案 竹

零崎双識の人間試験



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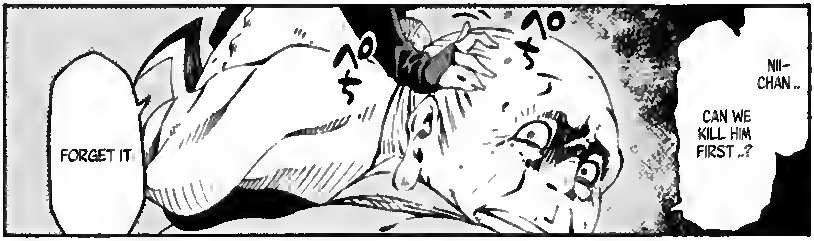
A LITTLE BEFORE THE PRESENT TIME...
...IN THE MOUNTAINS OF A CERTAIN PREFECTURE
Hii
Hii
Hii
QUESTION 9

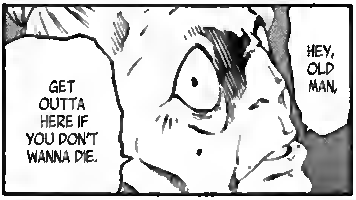
QUESTION 9

!
ドカン

Y- Y- Y- YOU'RE LATE! WHAT WERE YOU DOING?!
I'M PAYING GOOD MONEY HERE!
HURRY UP AND TAKE CARE OF THOSE HITMEN, YOU DIMWITS!

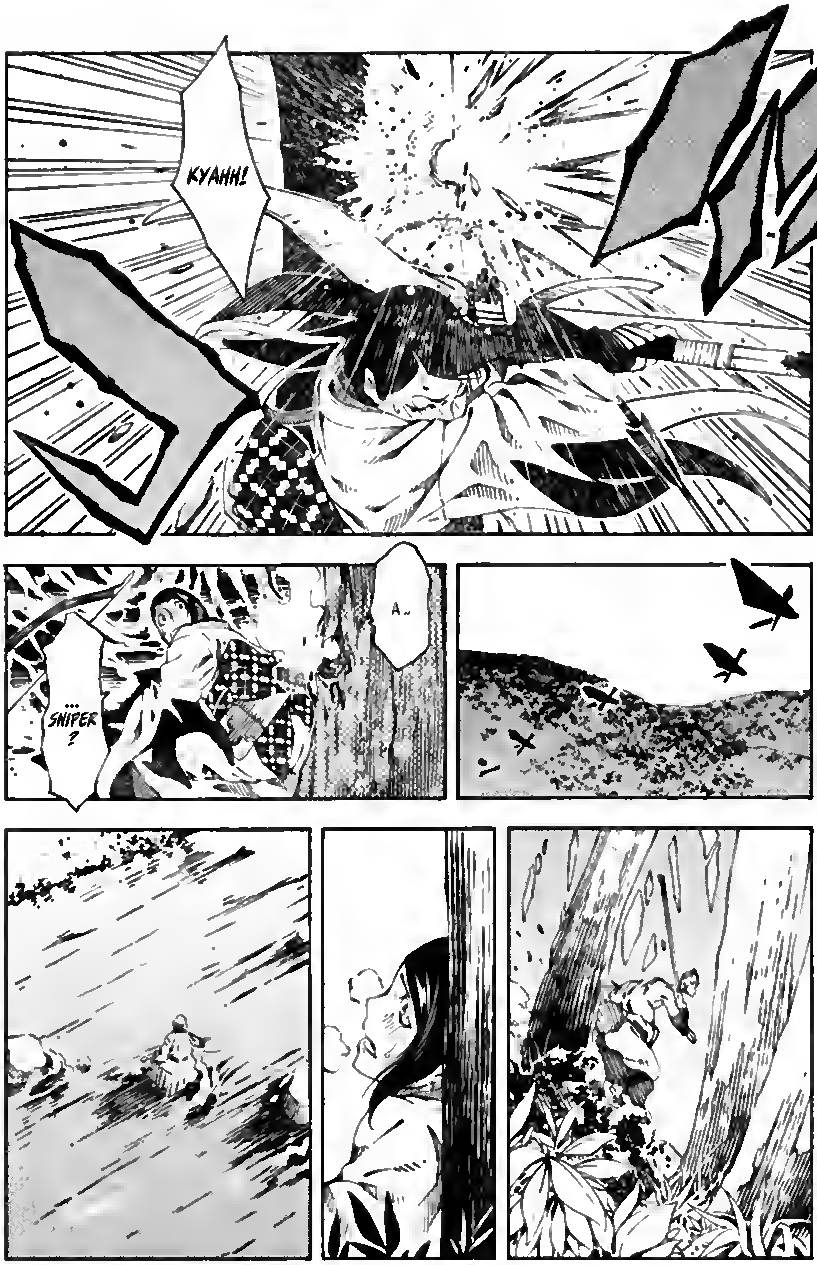

NII- CHAN.. CAN WE KILL HIM FIRST..?
FORGET IT.

.....


HEY, OLD MAN.
GET OUTTA HERE IF YOU DON'T WANNA DIE.

DON'T COMPLAIN IF YOU GET DRAGGED INTO THIS AND THEN GET YOURSELF KILLED
HII

YOU THINK IT WAS AN INSIDE JOB, NII-SAN?
BODY-GUARDS..? NO.. THESE GUYS ARE ALSO PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS, AREN'T THEY?
THE FACT THAT HE HIRED THESE GUYS MEANS THE INFORMATION GOT OUT...
.....
WELL,
It's for the escaped target, I suppose we can leave him.
To our beloved little sister, Yumiya-san.


KYAHH!
A...
...SNIPER?

IF..
IF I DON'T TAKE HIM DOWN HERE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY WITH MY BROTHERS..
THE THREE OF US ARE ONE.
IF I MAKE A MISTAKE, IT BECOMES MY BROTHERS' FAILURE, TOO
THAT'S THE ONE THING I CAN'T ALLOW
EVEN IF I HOLD NO GRUDGE ...
I MUST KILL...!

NI-
NII-CHAAN!

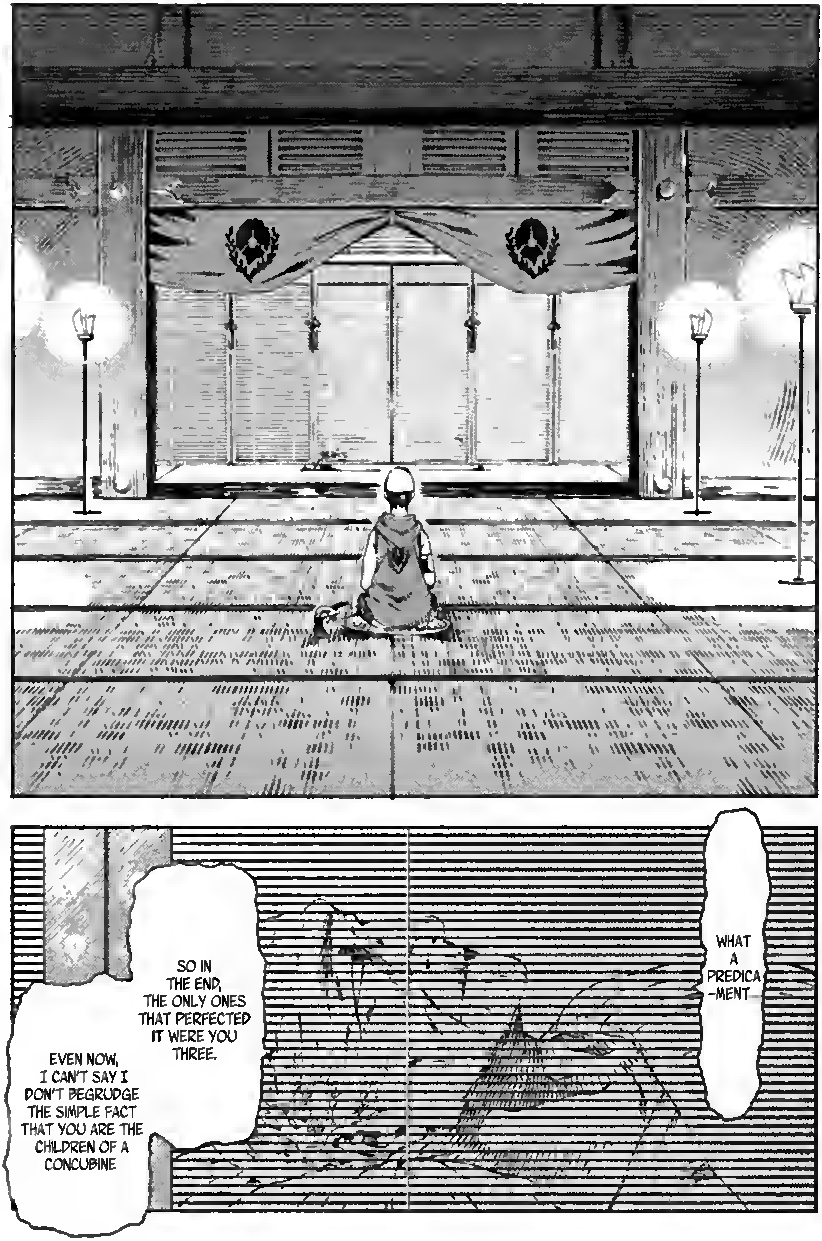
A PRO SHOULDN'T BE ACHING FROM LOSING A COUPLE OF ARMS!
COME ON-
!
I'M GONNA BEAT THAT GUY TO A PULP FIRST, SO HANG ON A SEC!
NII-SAN!

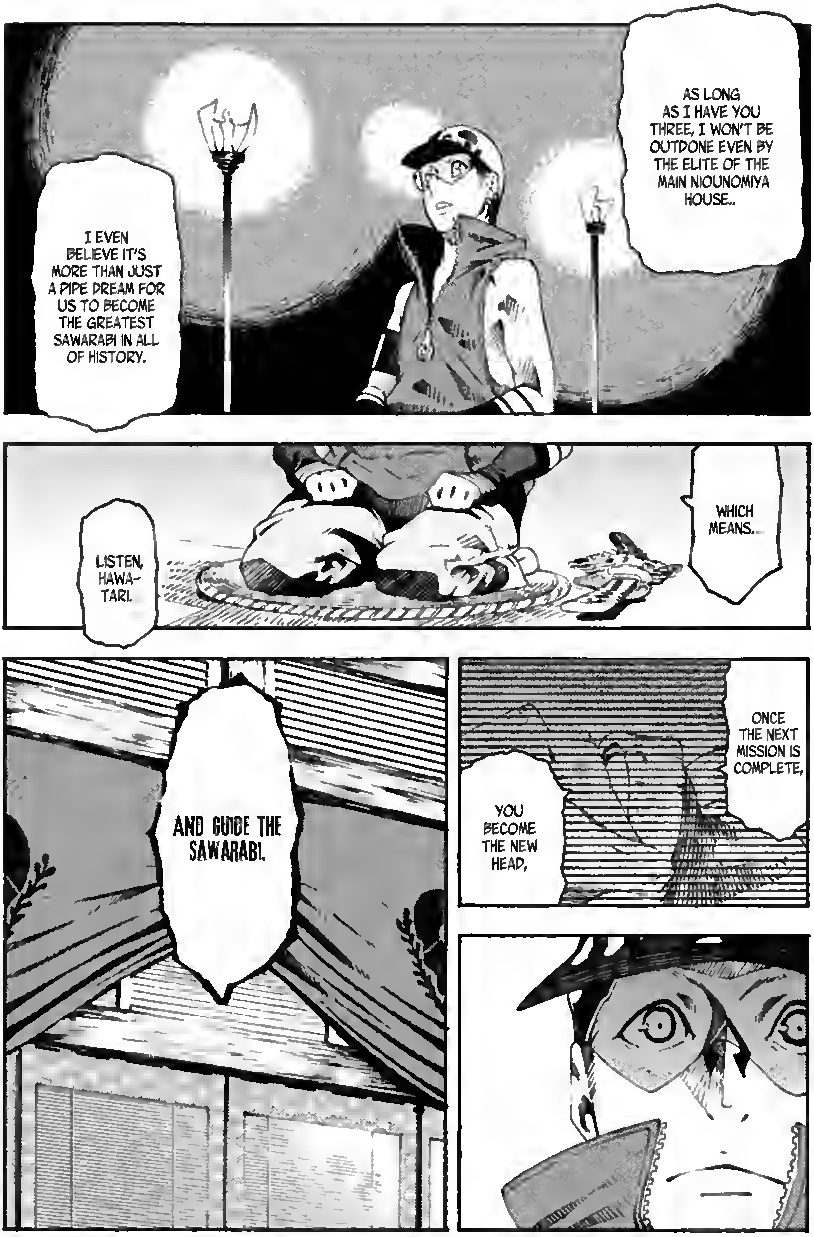
LOOKS LIKE OUR SIBLING COMBO WAS MORE POLISHED.
And that includes our looks.
HUP

OH, YUMIYA-SAN, WELCOME BACK.
AND THE TARGET?

KYAH
Good girl.
THAT'S OUR LITTLE SISTER.
MM
P.. PLEASE,
U- UMM,
HAWATARI NII-SA-
Hah
STOP TEASING ME,
NAGUMA NII-SAMA..
AH,
WAIT NII-SAN,
HOLD ON.

Let us return together.


WHAT A PREDICA-MENT—
SO IN THE END, THE ONLY ONES THAT PERFECTED IT WERE YOU THREE.
EVEN NOW, I CAN'T SAY I DON'T BEGRUDGE THE SIMPLE FACT THAT YOU ARE THE CHILDREN OF A CONCUBINE


I EVEN BELIEVE IT'S MORE THAN JUST A PIPE DREAM FOR US TO BECOME THE GREATEST SAWARABI IN ALL OF HISTORY.
AS LONG AS I HAVE YOU THREE, I WON'T BE OUTDONE EVEN BY THE ELITE OF THE MAIN NIOUNOMIYA HOUSE..
LISTEN, HAWA-TARI.
WHICH MEANS...
AND GUIDE THE SAWARABI.
ONCE THE NEXT MISSION IS COMPLETE,
YOU BECOME THE NEW HEAD,

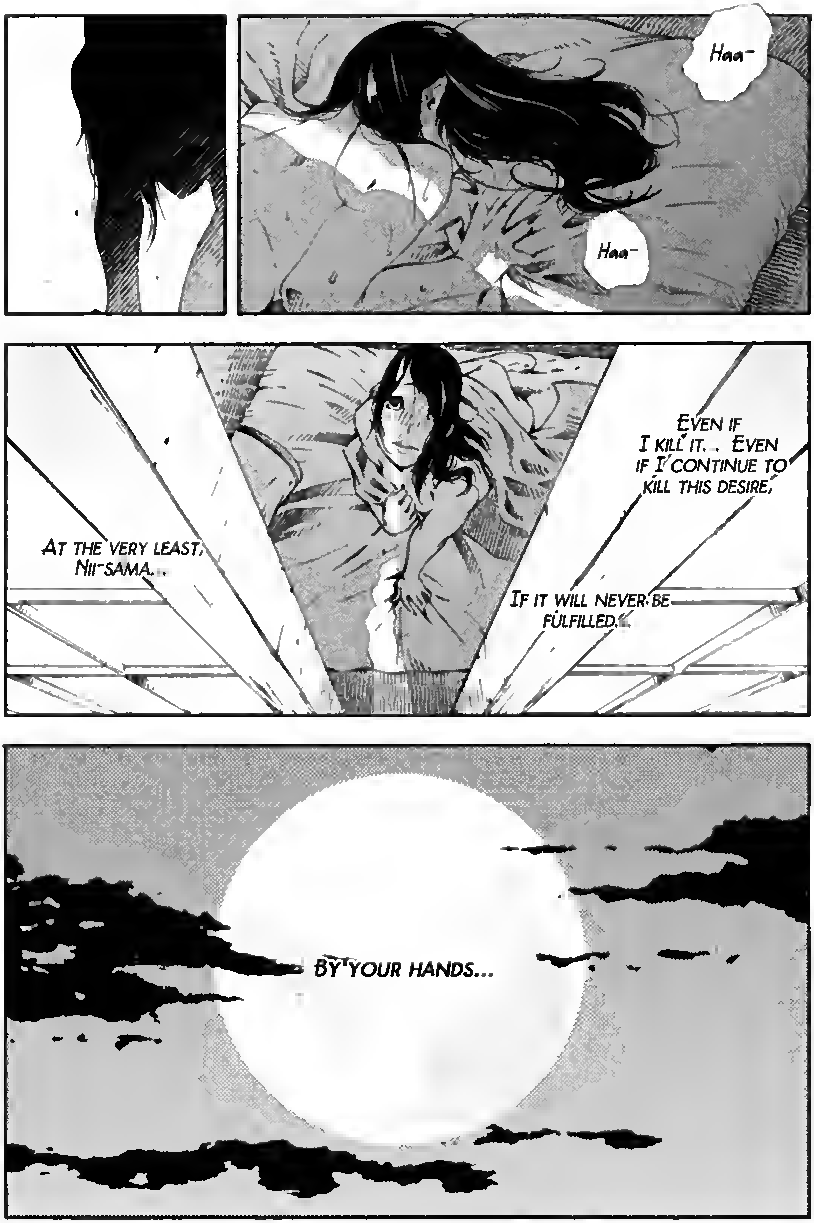
HEE-
THE HEAD SAID THAT?
DOES THIS MEAN WE THREE SIBLINGS WILL BECOME SAWARABI'S TOP DOGS IN BOTH NAME AND REALITY?
.....

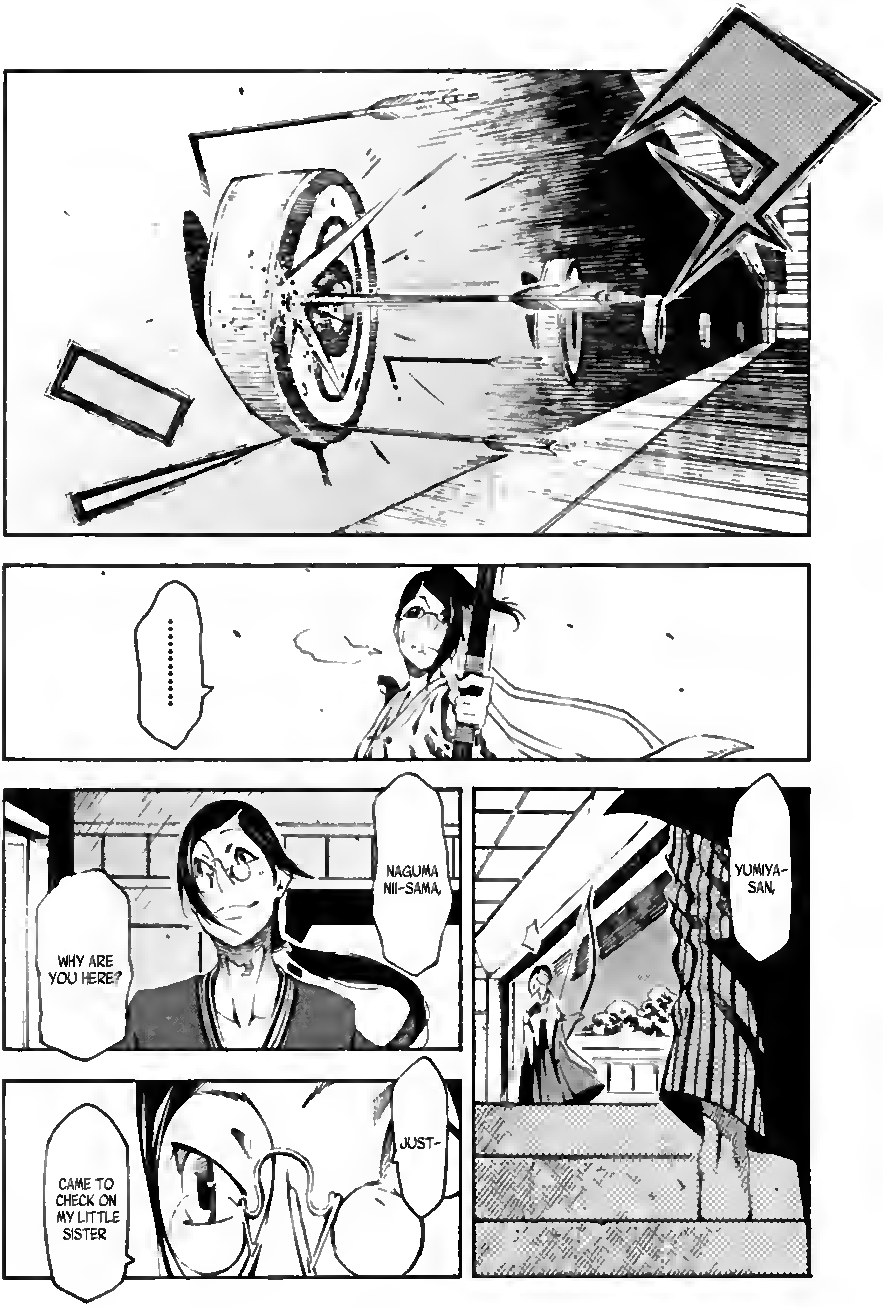
UH...
UMM...
ARE YOU WORRIED, YUMIYA-SAN?
N... NO, THAT'S NOT...
HAWATARI NII-SAMA WILL BE TAKING ON THIS NEXT JOB ALONE, CORRECT...?
I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO...
FROM HERE ON OUT-
Hah!
IT'S JUST...

It is our time.
YES.. HAWATARI NII-SAMA.
PLEASE, TAKE CARE.

HAWATARI NII-SAMA... HONESTLY...
I DON'T WANT IT TO BE THE THREE OF US...
I DON'T WANT THE THREE OF US,
TO BE SEPA-RATED
SO MUCH, I...

I WANT TO BE ONE,
WITH NII-SAMA....
カタ…
カタ…


Haa-
Haa-
Even if I kill it... Even if I continue to kill this desire,
If it will never be fulfilled,
At the very least, Nii-sama...
by your hands...


.....
NAGUMA NII-SAMA,
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
JUST-
CAME TO CHECK ON MY LITTLE SISTER
YUMIYA-SAN,

ARE YOU UNABLE TO SLEEP FROM ANXIETY?
.....
NII-SAN WILL SETTLE THINGS QUICKLY AND RETURN BEFORE YOU KNOW IT
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT A JOB OF THIS LEVEL.
IT WILL BE THE START OF OUR TIME.
AND ONCE HE DOES THAT, AS NII-SAN SAID
.....
NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLAIN

NAGUMA NII-SAMA, I...
DON'T KNOW ANYMORE AT THIS POINT...
WE'VE BEEN MURDERING PEOPLE ALL OUR LIVES..
WE WERE CREATED TO MURDER PEOPLE..
AND WE'LL LIKELY CONTINUE TO MURDER PEOPLE FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.
WE WON'T STUDY A THING, OR CHOOSE ANYTHING, OR EVEN BE ALLOWED TO ESCAPE.
WE MUST KILL OUR-SELVES IN ORDER TO STAY TOGETHER
AND KILL OTHERS TO LIVE.

What does it mean... to live...?
What do you think it means to die...?
What does it mean to kill...?
SO,
THAT AGAIN...

YUMIYA-
ARE YOU STILL BEING DRAGGED DOWN BY WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN?
THAT WASN'T A QUESTION OF LIVING OR KILLING.
IT WASN'T THAT SORT OF STAGE
THERE CAN BE NO COMPARISON.
DID YOU NOT FEEL ANYTHING AFTER WITNESSING SUCH AN EXISTENCE, NAGUMA NII-SAMA?
.....

USING THE INCIDENT FROM THAT TIME AS A SPRING, WE GREW IMMENSELY.
THAT'S AN UNDENIABLE FACT.
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR A THING.
We have no choice but to kill.
We were perfected in that manner.
IF THEY SAY THAT'S OUR JOB, OUR DUTY AND OUR MISSION,
THEN WE HAVE NO OTHER WAY OF LIVING, RIGHT?
.....

THAT DAY...
THE NIGHT LOOKED JUST LIKE THIS, DIDN'T IT...?

THIS IS SAWARABI LAND!
YOU THINK YOU CAN RETURN ALIVE AFTER THIS?!!
WHO ARE YOU, BASTARD?!
HAA
HAA
ALRIGHT ...
THEN LET ME TEACH YOU...
YOU'RE PART OF THE BRANCH FAMILY AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT ME?!
WHAT?!

SLAUGHTER MAGIC GROUP, NIOUNOMIYA TROUPE.
MANEATER NIOUNOMIYA IRUMU.
I WILL NOW EXECUTE MY MISSION.

QUESTION 9 END

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GAH! I REALLY NEED A NEW CLEANER NOW!!!

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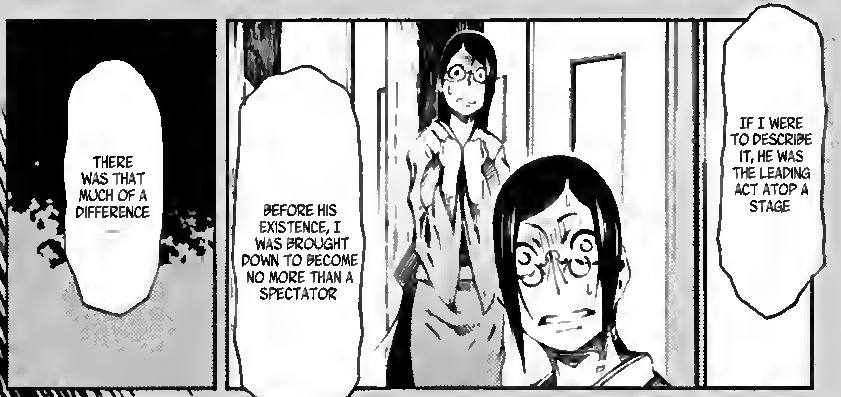
QUESTION 10
NIOUNOMIYA IZUMI?!
YOU FOUGHT WITH HIM?
WITH THE NIOUNOMIYA? ...THAT'S ONE PERSON BUT TWO SIBLINGS
DURING YOUR PREVIOUS JOB?
I...
COULDN'T DO A THING.
.....
H.. HOW WAS IT?
THE POWER OF THE MAIN HOUSE'S NEXT ACE


IF I WERE TO DESCRIBE IT, HE WAS THE LEADING ACT ATOP A STAGE
BEFORE HIS EXISTENCE, I WAS BROUGHT DOWN TO BECOME NO MORE THAN A SPECTATOR
THERE WAS THAT MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE

WHY ..?
THAT MONSTER THAT NII-SAN ONCE FELT SUCH AN OVERWHELMING DIFFERENCE IN POWER FROM
WHY IS HE HERE... ?!!
QUESTION 10

GYA HAHA
WHAT IS THE MATTER?!
DON'T JUST RUN AWAY.
COME AT ME MORE AGGRESSIVELY!
OH.
OH.
OH.
DON'T YOU THINK WE'RE WASTING TIME HERE?!

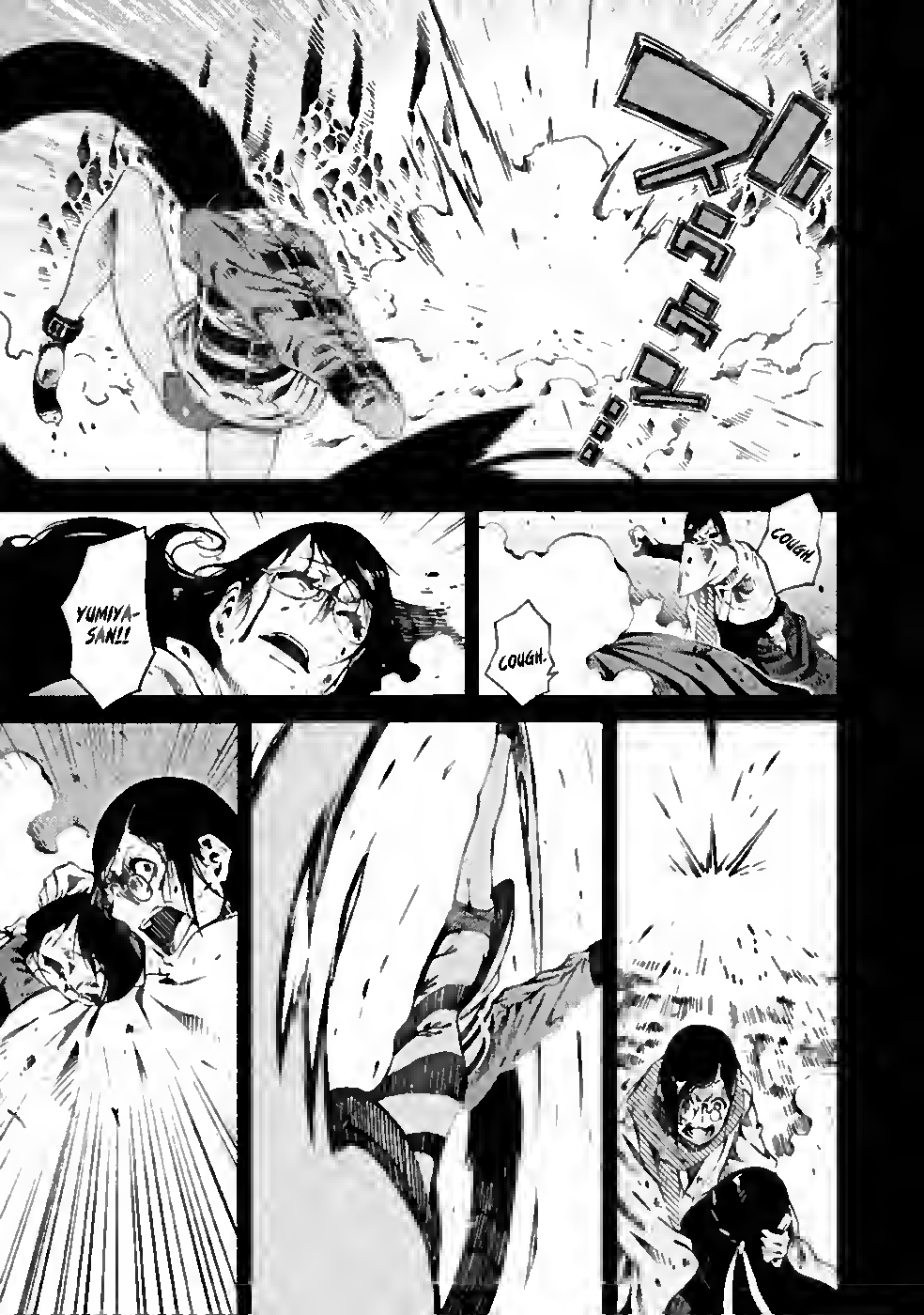
DAMN IT... IF AT LEAST,
I HAD MY NAGINA-
-TA.

YU...

YUMIYA-SAN!!
!?

D...
DID SHE GET HIM...?!

TOO BAD.
HOW..?
HE EVEN HAS BOTH HIS ARMS SEALED
THIS... IS THE TRUE POWER OF THE MAIN HOUSE...
!!


YUMIYA-SAN!!
COUGH.
COUGH.

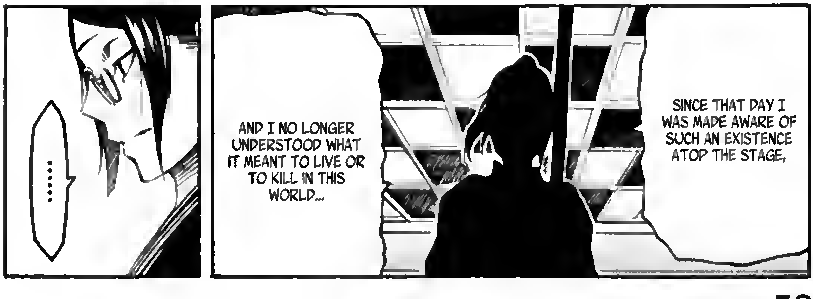
BEEP

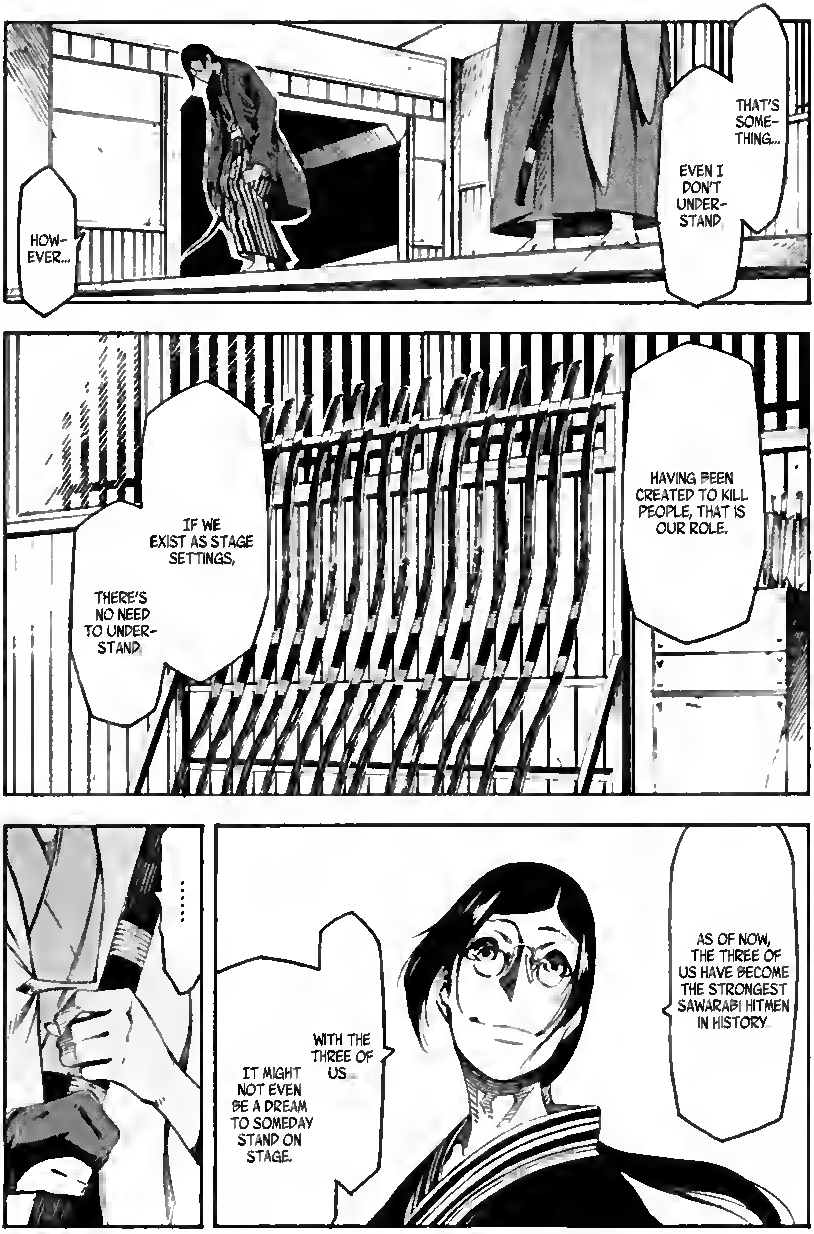
BEEP
BEEP
!?
That's
one hour

I SET MY SLAUGHTERING TO ONE HOUR A DAY.
THAT WAS PRETTY FUN, YOU TWO
IS THAT,
YOUR LITTLE SISTER?
MISSION ...?
WHAT EXACTLY FOR...?
WHO KNOWS.
I DIDN'T ASK. AND EVEN IF I DID. WHEN IT COMES TO THAT PERSON—
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. I WON'T DO ANYTHING ANYMORE.
MY MISSION'S COMPLETE.
GYAHA.

Whether there's a reason or not, it's all the same thing.
is probably the answer I'd get
PUTTING THAT ASIDE,
I HAVE A LITTLE SISTER TOO.
RIGHT HERE.
ONE PERSON, BUT TWO NIOUNOMIYA SIBLINGS.
DUAL PERSONALITY...
UNLIKE ME, YOU GUYS CAN CHASE AFTER THE SAME GOAL.
YOU CAN SPEND TIME TOGETHER.
IF YOU ASK ME THAT'S SOMETHING TO BE SUPER JEALOUS ABOUT.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR LITTLE SISTER.

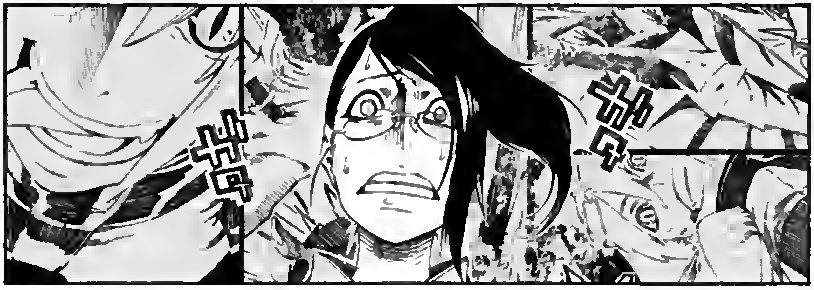
I'm pretty sure that nothing in this world
Could replace her...

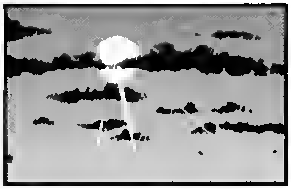

.....
AND I NO LONGER UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT MEANT TO LIVE OR TO KILL IN THIS WORLD...
SINCE THAT DAY I WAS MADE AWARE OF SUCH AN EXISTENCE ATOP THE STAGE,


HOW-EVER...
THAT'S SOME-THING...
EVEN I DON'T UNDER-STAND
IF WE EXIST AS STAGE SETTINGS,
THERE'S NO NEED TO UNDER-STAND
HAVING BEEN CREATED TO KILL PEOPLE, THAT IS OUR ROLE.
.....
IT MIGHT NOT EVEN BE A DREAM TO SOMEDAY STAND ON STAGE.
WITH THE THREE OF US...
AS OF NOW, THE THREE OF US HAVE BECOME THE STRONGEST SAWARABI HITMEN IN HISTORY.

THE STRONGEST ...?
DID YOU SAY THE STRONGEST?

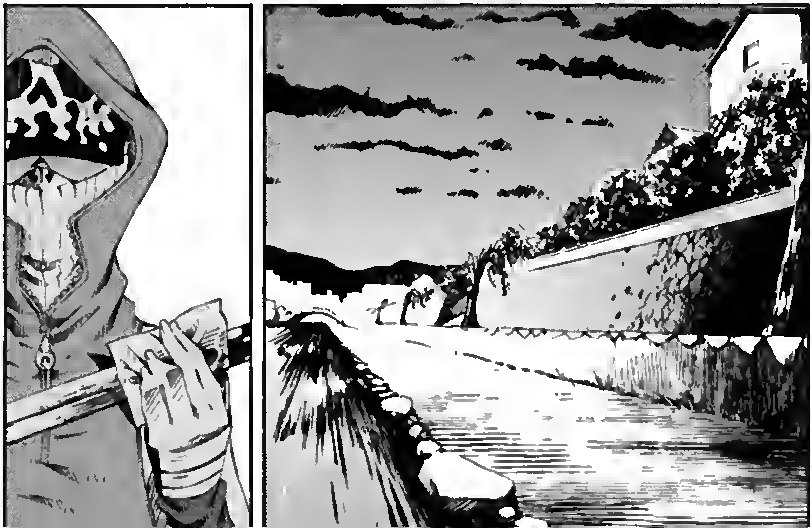
LET ME TEST YOU ...
IF YOU'D GO AS FAR AS TO SAY THAT, THEN LET'S SEE WHETHER OR NOT YOU REALLY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO STAND ON STAGE.





WHO ARE YOU EXACTLY ?
YOU SEEM TO BE A RATHER ILL-MANNERED GUEST
OH MY.. A GUEST AT THIS HOUR

ZEROZAKI.



I CAN KILL HIM...
BUT, WHAT IS THIS...?
THOSE GLASSES ARE NICE.

THIS GUY...
I MUSTN'T KILL HIM..

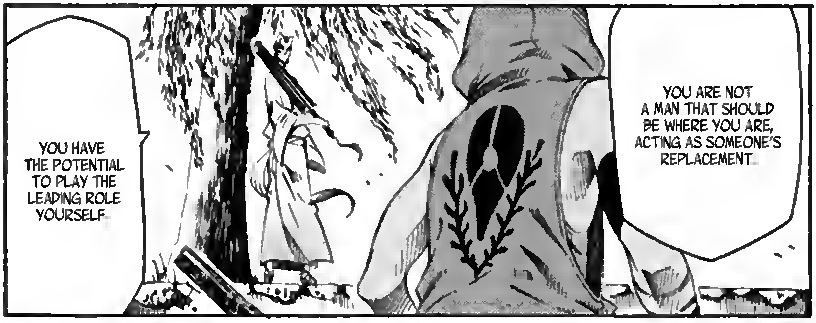
YOU...
WHO ARE YOU..?
"Who are you?"
HMPH.
THAT'S AN INCONSEQUENTIAL QUESTION, SAWARABI HAWATARI.
WHETHER I OFFER MY NAME HERE OR NOT,
IT'S ALL THE SAME.
YOU SEE, HAWA-TARI.

IN ORDER TO END THE WORLD.
I AM GATHERING WHAT THEY CALL ODD ONES.
LET'S SEE, THERE ARE,
..13.
7 "MURDERING NAMES" AND 6 "CURSING NAMES" THE TOTAL NUMBER IS A SIGN OF FATE. IT'S NOT BAD.
.. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
"WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?"
Hmph.
DO YOU NOT UNDER-STAND?

YOU ARE SUITED TO BE MY GLASSES HAWATARI
I SEE
SO FOR THE MOMENT, THE ONLY ONE I CAN INVITE IS YOU
BUT IT SEEMS THEY WERE SERVED A MAGNIFICENT DEFEAT BY IZUMI
I WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE WITH INCLUDING YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER AND SISTER,

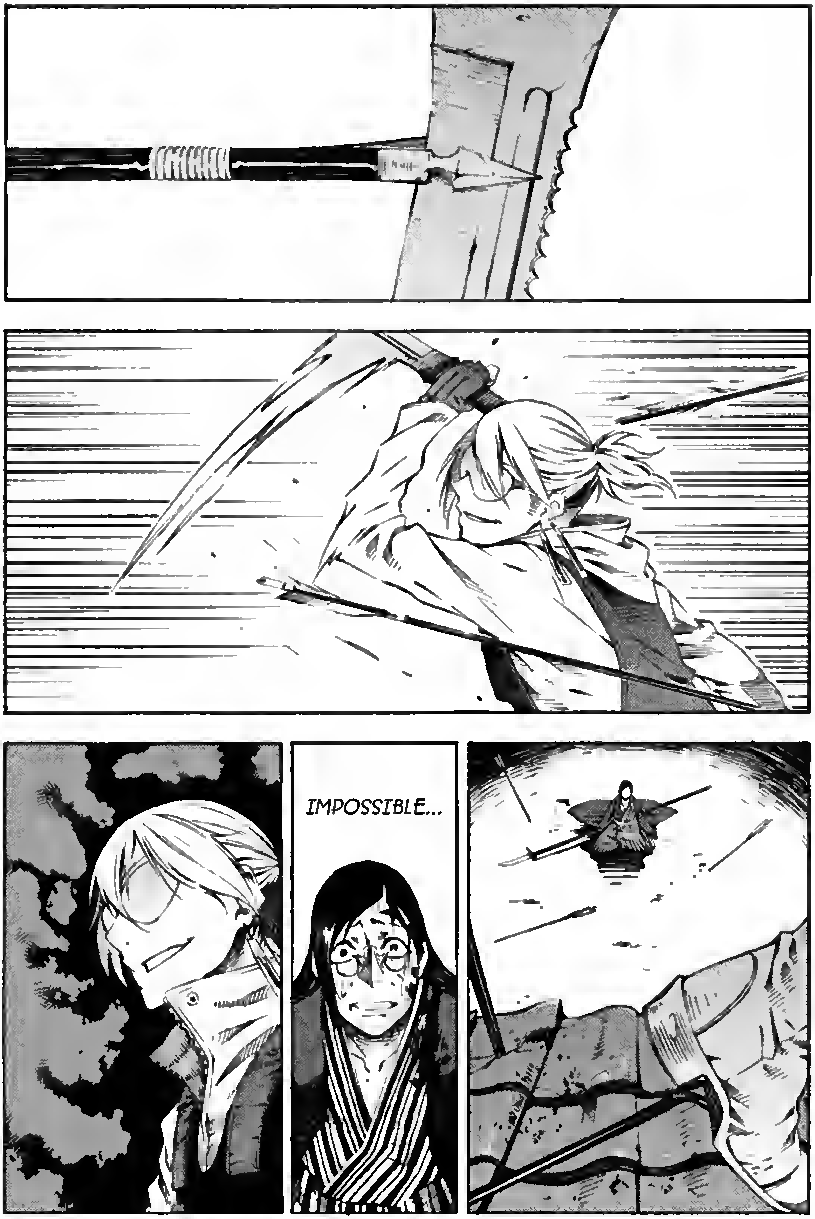
YOU WERE BEHIND THE INCIDENT WITH MANEATER, AND THIS JOB AS WELL.
SO THEY WERE "EXAMS"
Hmph
THAT'S NOT REALLY HOW I'D LIKE TO VIEW THINGS, BUT IF YOU WANT TO PUT IT THAT WAY, THEN YOU SURELY DID "PASS"
HAVING SAID THAT,
THERE EXIST THOSE WHO ARE INDISPENSABLE, REGARDLESS.
HOWEVER, DON'T MIS-UNDERSTAND
WHETHER YOU'RE STRONG OR WEAK, SUPERIOR OR A FOOL, IT'S ALL THE SAME.
IT'S NOT YOUR SKILLS OR STRENGTH THAT I APPRECIATE.
TO ALL THINGS AND ALL PEOPLE, THERE EXISTS A REPLACE-MENT.

That divergent existence of yours, which seems to have no possible alternatives,
That's what I appreciate.


YOU ARE NOT A MAN THAT SHOULD BE WHERE YOU ARE, ACTING AS SOMEONE'S REPLACEMENT.
YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO PLAY THE LEADING ROLE YOURSELF.

I'M SURE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO MAKE ANY CHOICES OF YOUR OWN DURING YOUR LIFETIME.
SAWARABI, LEAVE THE CONTINUATION OF SOMEONE ELSE TO YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER AND SISTER, AND STAND ON STAGE, HAWATARI.
IF YOU CHOOSE ME, THEN SURELY...

YOU WILL,
FEEL GOOD...


IMPOSSIBLE...

OUR STAGES
ARE MUCH TOO DIFFERENT...
YUMIYA-SAN, RUN!!
NAGUMA NII-SAMA...
SA... VE...

BY NO MEANS.

WHAT A FOOLISH MISUNDERSTANDING IT WAS.
I... UNDERSTAND NOW...

AHH...
HAWATARI NII-SAMA
NAGUMA NII-SAMA...

YUMIYAAAAAAA!!

WILL WE BE ABLE TO STAND ON STAGE.

QUESTION 10 END

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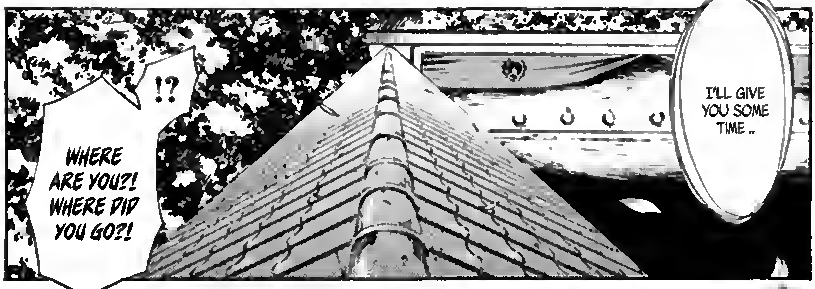
YUMIYA-SAN!!
QUESTION 11

YOU BAS-TARD!!

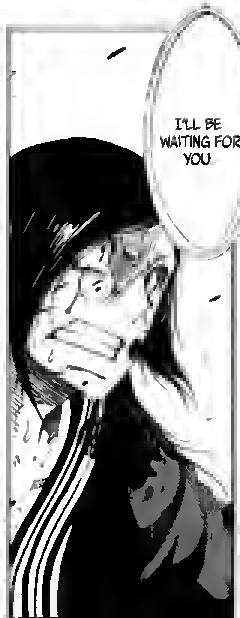
I'LL KILL YOU!!

QUESTION 11

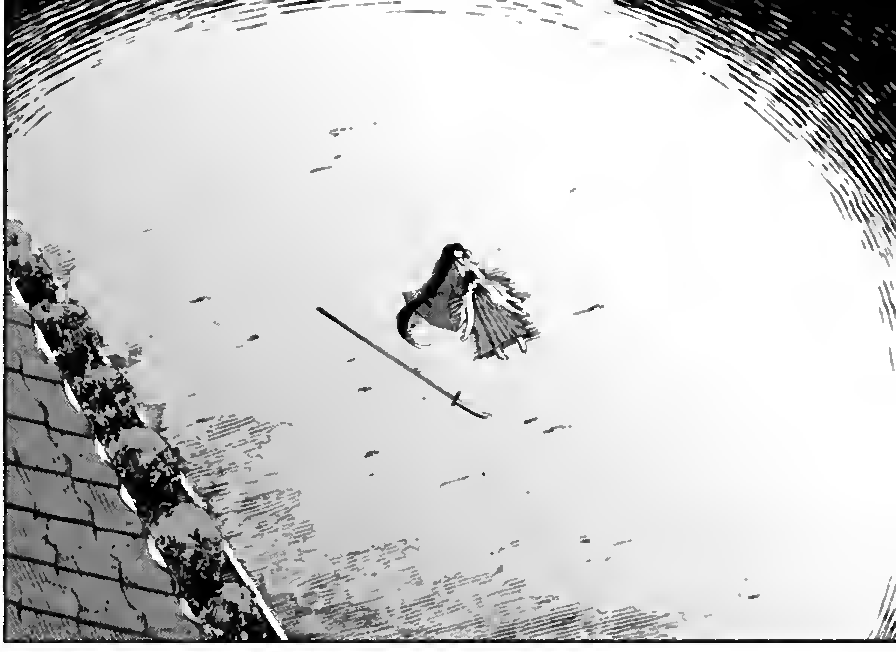
OH
OH
OH
INSTEAD OF KILLING ALL THE TIME, ONCE IN A WHILE-
NICE.
IT MIGHT BE INTERESTING TO BE KILLED.


I'LL GIVE YOU SOME TIME..
!?
WHERE ARE YOU?! WHERE DID YOU GO?!

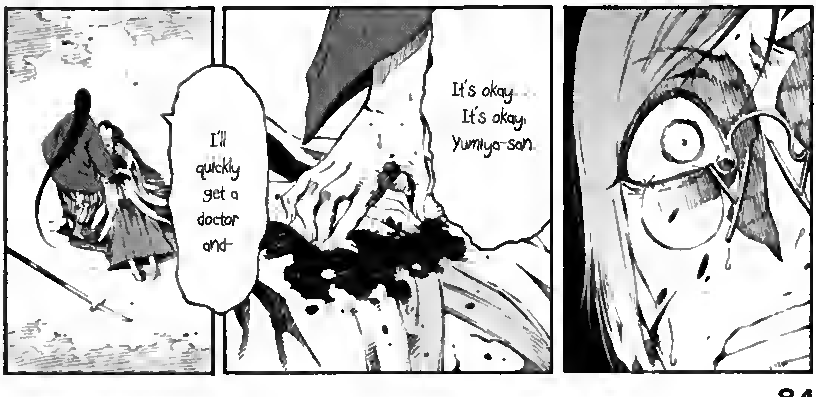
MAKE SURE...
YOU COME TO KILL ME...


I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU

Haa
Haa
This much ...
Are you saying there's this much of a difference ...?
CLANG
YUMIYA-SAN...?
...HAH.
DO WE...
NOT EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO RISE TO THE STAGE YET...?
YUMIYA-SAN!!



Nii-sama ...I'm sorry.
I... was a hindrance.


I'll quickly get a doctor and-
It's okay. It's okay, Yumiya-san.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, NAGUMA NII-SAMA..
!?
RIGHT NOW, I..
AM HAPPY
NOW...

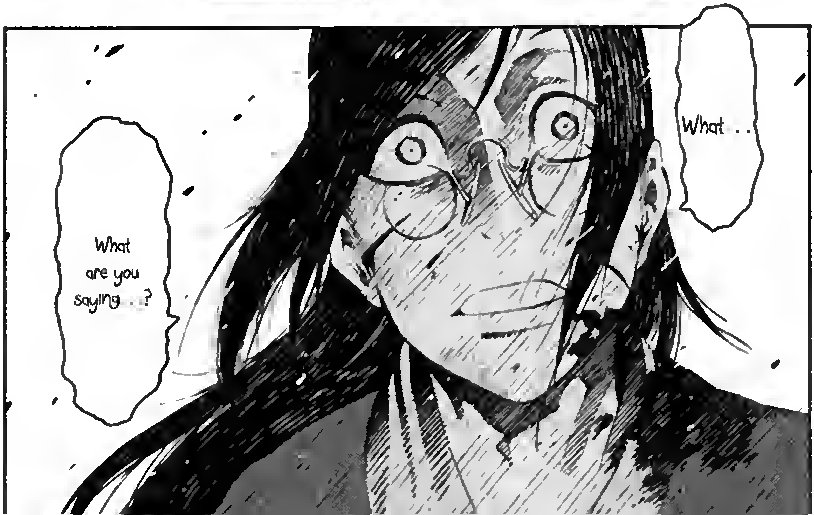
I NO LONGER NEED TO KILL ANYONE.

I don't have to kill myself...
to act strong, or upright...
Yumiya-san?

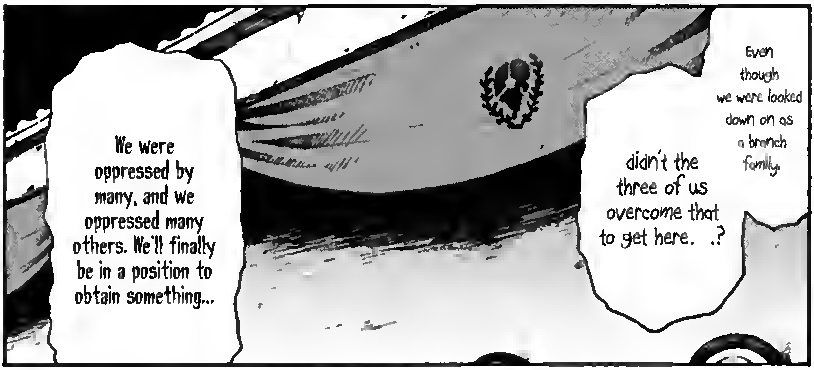
Others also told me I had superior abilities...
Until now, I told myself I had talent...

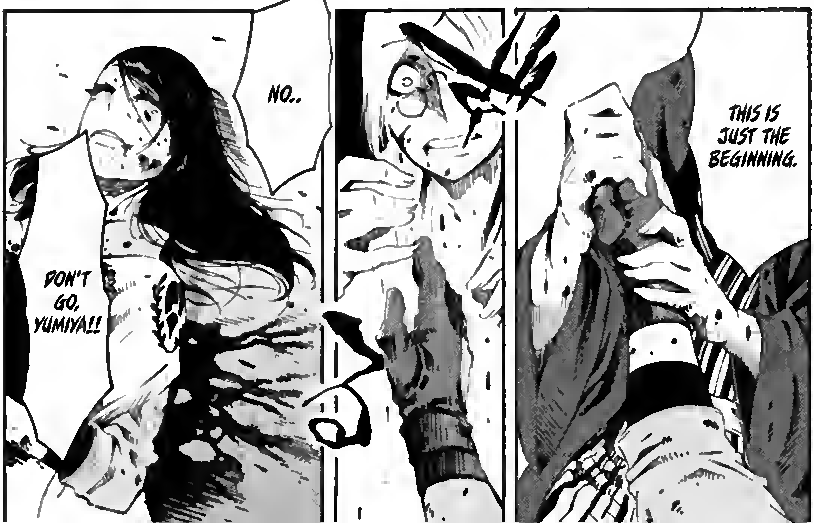
However, Nii-sama... I... we,
not by anything... or anyone-
With just that as justification, I've lived my life killing people...
I wasn't allowed to make any choices, but...
I believed that I was an existence that was chosen by something...

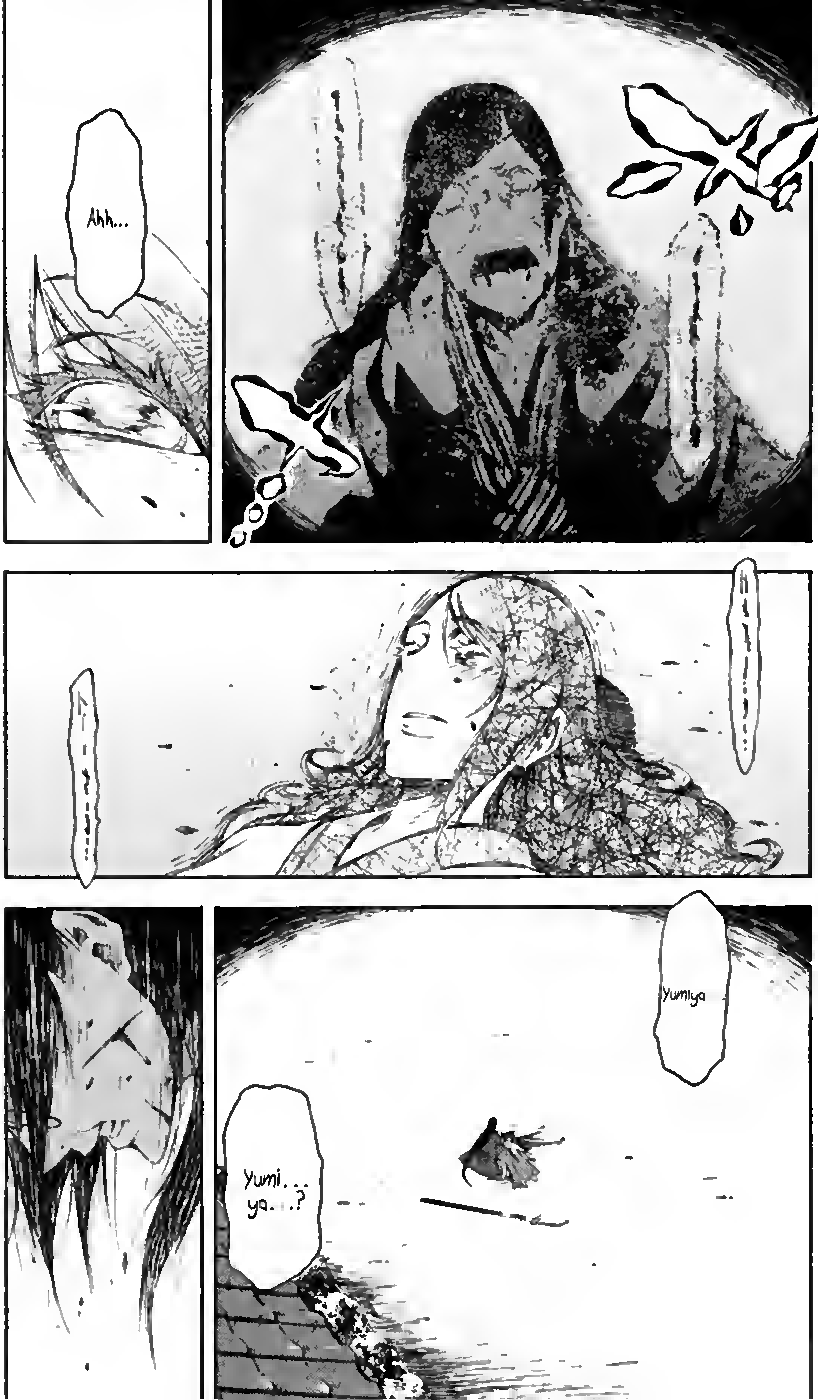
We were not all chosen...


What...
What are you saying...?

OUR TIME HAS FINALLY COME...
FOR THE THREE OF US
WE CAN'T LOSE ANY ONE OF US.


Even though we were looked down on as a branch family,
didn't the three of us overcome that to get here. ..?
We were oppressed by many, and we oppressed many others. We'll finally be in a position to obtain something...


NO..
DON'T GO, YUMIYA!!
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.


Ahh...
Yumiya
Yumi..
ya...?

NOW... CHOOSE, HAWA-TARI.
.....
I will.
Place you on stage.

YOU ARE TRULY THE "WORST" MAN.
SUCH ARROGANCE.
.....
BUT BECAUSE OF THAT YOU ARE ALLURING.
IT EVEN MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I WANT YOU TO INFLUENCE MY FATE.
THAT...
IS PRECISELY WHY-

I CHOOSE THE SAWARABI.

"I CHOOSE THE SAWARABI."
HM?H.
SO YOU CHOOSE FAMILY.
I WILL SEARCH FOR ANOTHER SEEMINGLY TROUBLESOME ONE AS AN ALTERNATIVE.
THAT'S FINE.
ONCE MORE,

Family.
Family. . is it?

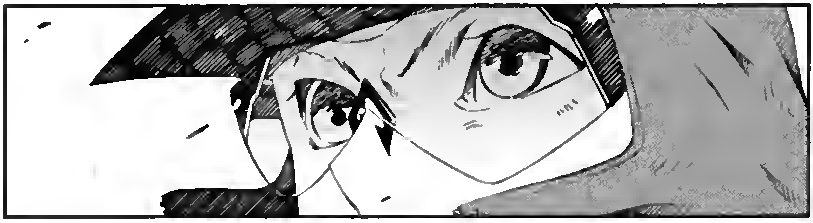
HA-
HAWA-TARI-SAMA!

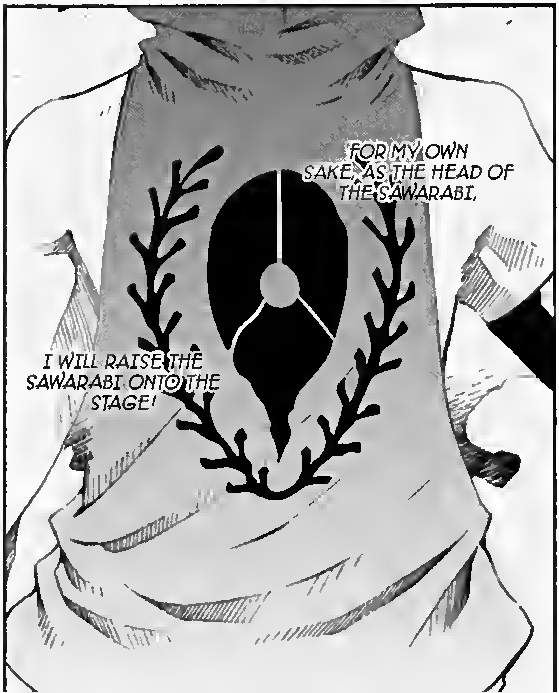
YUMIYA-SAMA IS-

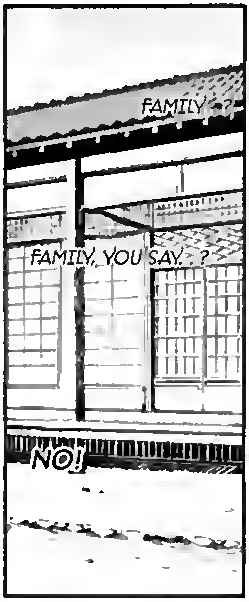
HAA...
HAA...
WHAT...?
WHAT IS THIS...?
GUIDE THE SAWARABI.
IT'S OUR TIME.
I CHOOSE THE SAWARABI.

!?
Nothing changes.
?
NII-SAN?!
NI...

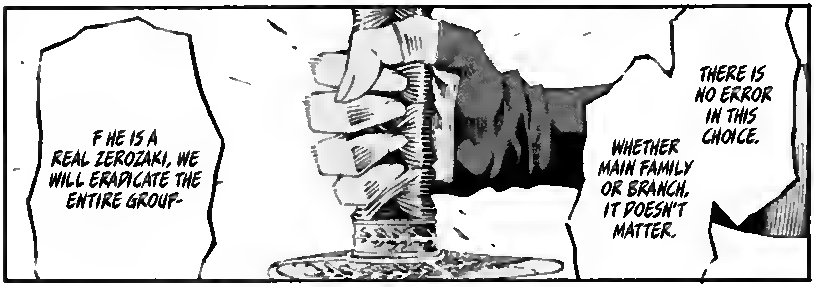
IT'S THE SAME AS BEFORE.
EVEN IF WE END UP AS ONE PERSON,
THE SAWARABI NAME WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST AS HITMEN.



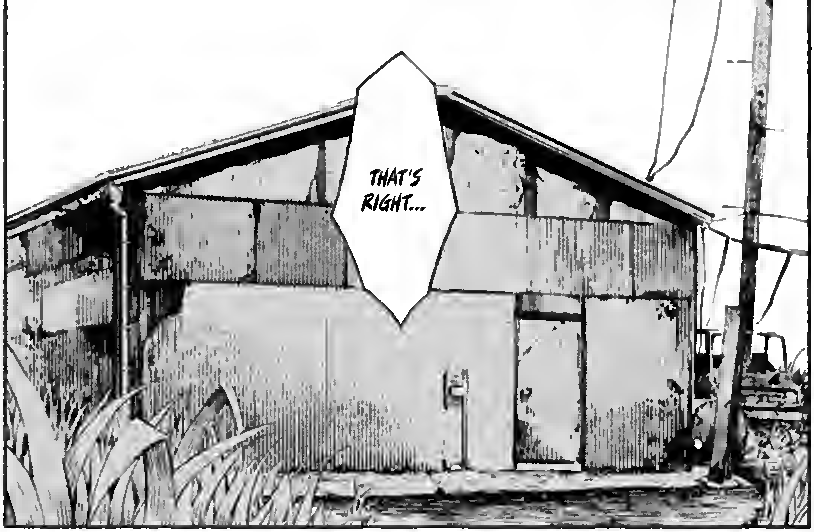

FOR MY OWN SAKE, AS THE HEAD OF THE SAWARABI,
I WILL RAISE THE SAWARABI ONTO THE STAGE!


FAMILY...?
FAMILY, YOU SAY...?
NO!

!!
First, we kill the one who calls himself Zerozaki.
FIND YOUR RESOLVE, NAGUMA.


IF HE IS A REAL ZEROZAKI, WE WILL ERADICATE THE ENTIRE GROUP-
WHETHER MAIN FAMILY OR BRANCH, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
THERE IS NO ERROR IN THIS CHOICE.

AND TURN THEM INTO A STEPPING STONE FOR THE SAWARABI!

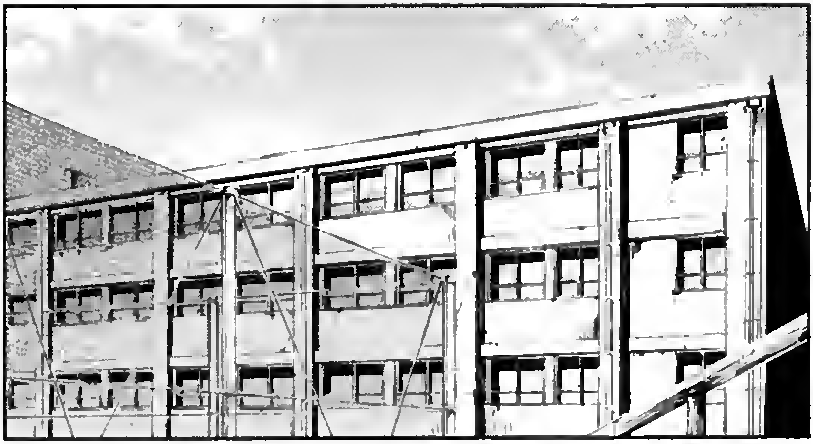

THAT'S RIGHT...

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER WE'RE CHOSEN OR NOT.

FOR STARTERS, IF THEY'RE ON A DIFFERENT STAGE,
No matter what the method... No matter how dirty our hands get,
we'll drag them down from that stage.
PLEASE WAIT, YUMIYA-SAN.
WE WILL SURELY AVENGE YOU.

I will definitely find you.
And put an end to you life!

Wait for me, Zerozaki with the tattooed face.

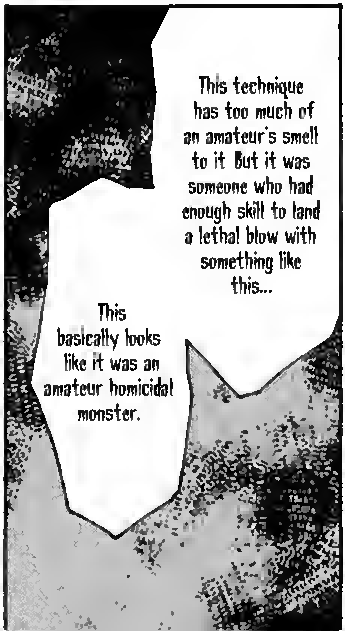


-MAN.

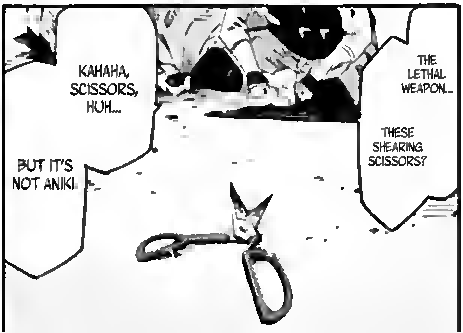
WHAT IS THIS...?

IT'S LIKE HE GARGLED EYE DROPS..

THIS DEFT CUT,
THERE'S NO DOUBT IT'S ANIKI'S WORK
BUT THE PROBLEM'S HERE-


This technique has too much of an amateur's smell to it But it was someone who had enough skill to land a lethal blow with something like this...
This basically looks like it was an amateur homicidal monster.

The stab wound.


KAHAHA, SCISSORS, HUH...
THE LETHAL WEAPON...
THESE SHEARING SCISSORS?
BUT IT'S NOT ANIKI.

IN OTHER WORDS-
There was a third party here.
Then, Aniki removed the head as if he intended to erase this wound.
Helping..? No.
was he saving them?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SOMEONE THAT THAT ANIKI WOULD SAVE, HUH..?

WHA..
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
EH?
Sensei?
KAHAHA.
GOOD I WAS JUST ABOUT TO DOUBT MY REASONING THERE.
EHH... I AM FOR THE MOST PART...
OH?
WEREN'T YOU AN INSTRUCTOR?
YEAH... BUT,
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M PLANNING TO ASK YOU, AS A TEACHER, TO GIVE ME DIRECTIONS IN LIFE OR ANYTHING.
RIGHT, SENSEI,
WHILE YOU'RE HERE, I WANT TO ASK FOR SOME DIRECTIONS.
DIREC-TIONS?

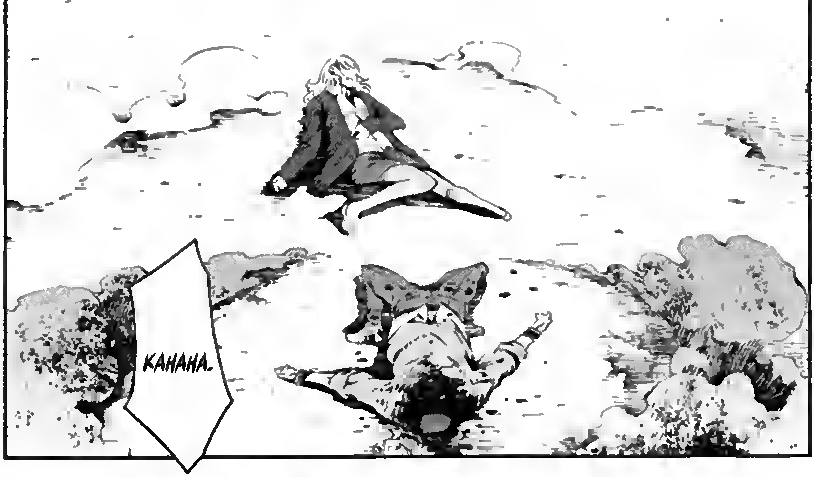
ACTUALLY, I CAME HERE WHILE SEARCHING FOR MY ANIKI.
HE HAS LONG AND SLENDER LIMBS LIKE AN IDIOT.
HE HAS SLICKED BACK HAIR LIKE AN IDIOT.
AND HE WEARS SILVER-RIMMED GLASSES WITH A MISMATCHING SUIT LIKE AN IDIOT.
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?
!
AH.. THAT PERSON WAS HERE JUST THIS MORNING
THIS MORNING !
I SEE, I SEE.
THAT'S PRETTY,
RIDICU-LOUS.
THANK YOU
HERE, AS THANKS.

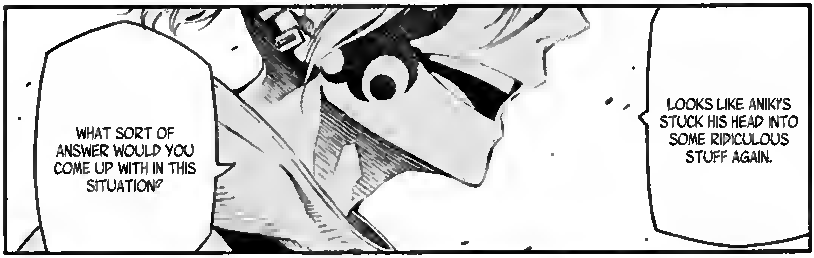
KYAH!
.....
TEN YEN...?
TH... THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
?
COME ON, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M GENEROUS, GOOD LOOKING, AND FAMOUS.
RIGHT...
BUT MAN, YOU...
THE MORE I LOOK AT YOU, THE MORE YOU SEEM THE WAY YOU LOOK-
.....

..HUH?
SO YOU WANT TO SAY I'M ORDINARY TOO, DO YOU?!
ORDI-NARY?!
UNLIKE THE GUY THAT'S LYING ON THE GROUND THERE, THE FACT THAT YOU WEREN'T CHOSEN,
PUTTING ASIDE WHETHER SOMETHING LIKE THAT REALLY EXISTS OR NOT,
KAHAHA, "ORDINARY", HUH?
ALL RIGHT THEN
.....?
THAT'S ALL I WAS THINKING.
MIGHT UNEXPECTEDLY HAVE BEEN A FORTUNATE THING.

Bye - bi.
ALSO,
HE WASN'T ONE OF OUR STUDENTS... WAS HE?
...I WONDER WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT..
THOSE PEOPLE..
I WONDER WHAT HE WAS DOING EXACTLY
.....
?
THE GUY THAT'S LYING ON THE GROUND...?

HII!
AH..


KAHAHA.


WHAT SORT OF ANSWER WOULD YOU COME UP WITH IN THIS SITUATION?
LOOKS LIKE ANIKI'S STUCK HIS HEAD INTO SOME RIDICULOUS STUFF AGAIN.

Huh,
"Faulty Product"?

QUESTION 11 END

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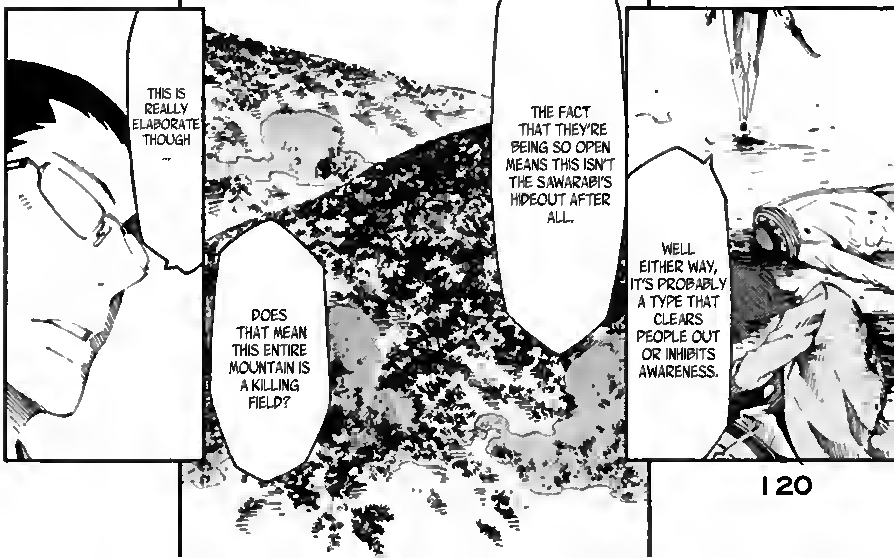
QUESTION 12
IT'S ME.
YEAH.. TURNS OUT I'LL BE TAKING SOME REAL ACTION IN THIS TOWN
INCLUDING THE SCHOOL AND CONDOS, I'LL LEAVE THE CLEAN UP TO YOU
THEN I'LL LEAVE IT IN YOUR HANDS
Ujigami-san
UFUFU ...WHY NOT?
IF ONE SIDE DIES, IT'S MINUS 1 IF THEY BOTH FALL, IT'S MINUS 2.
EITHER WAY, IT WORKS OUT FOR YOU GUYS, RIGHT?

NOW,
HERE YOU GO
THANKS FOR THE PHONE.
SHALL I GO RESCUE MY DEAR LITTLE SISTER?
AGAINST THAT FEMALE OPPONENT, WHO IS DREADFUL AS EITHER AN ALLY OR ENEMY-
SO HE'S COME.
.....

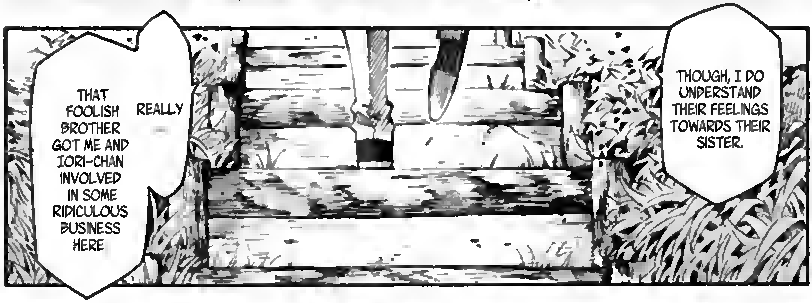
QUESTION 12

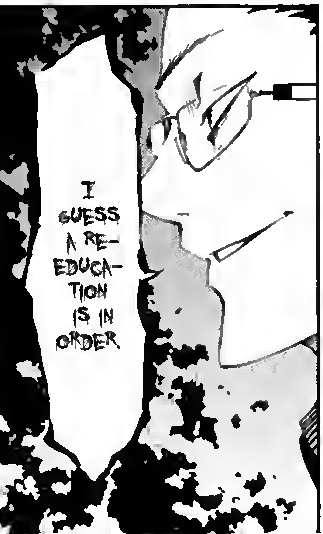
GAS STATION

A BARRIER IN A PLACE LIKE THIS..
.....

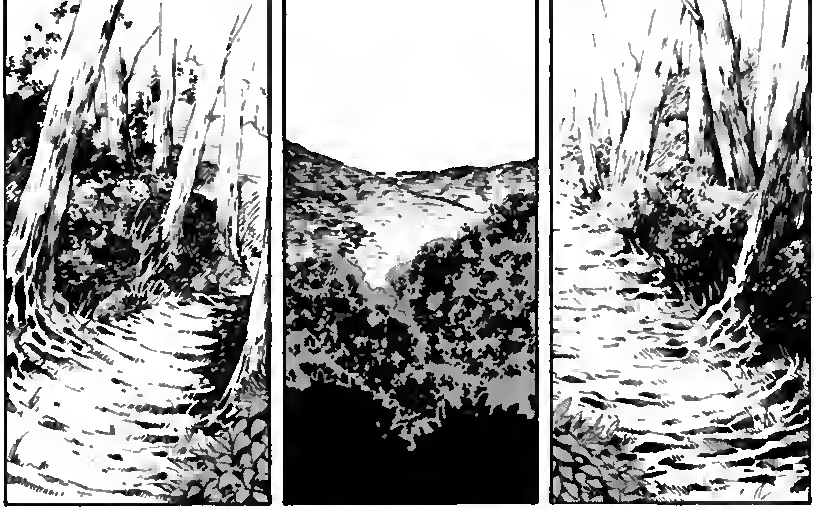

THIS IS REALLY ELABORATE THOUGH ...
DOES THAT MEAN THIS ENTIRE MOUNTAIN IS A KILLING FIELD?
THE FACT THAT THEY'RE BEING SO OPEN MEANS THIS ISN'T THE SAWARABI'S HIDEOUT AFTER ALL.
WELL EITHER WAY, IT'S PROBABLY A TYPE THAT CLEARS PEOPLE OUT OR INHIBITS AWARENESS.

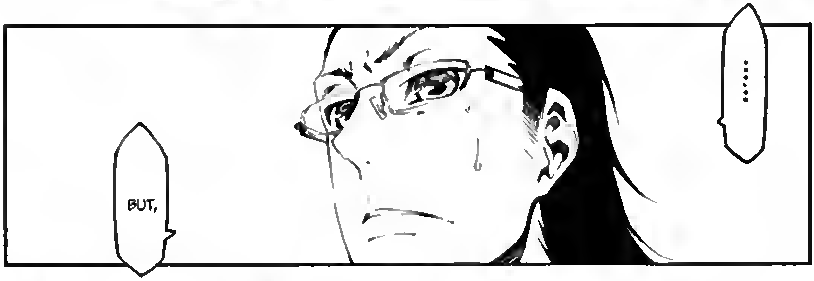
As far as to join hands with Tokinomiya, the antithesis of the Sawarabi's existence as pure hitmen...?
Would they really go this far to avenge their younger sister?


That foolish brother got me and Iori-chan involved in some ridiculous business here
really
Though, I do understand their feelings towards their sister.

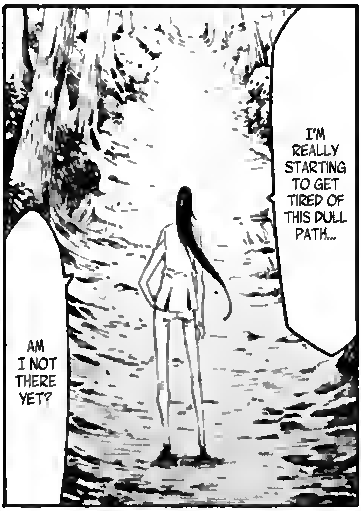

I guess a re-education is in order

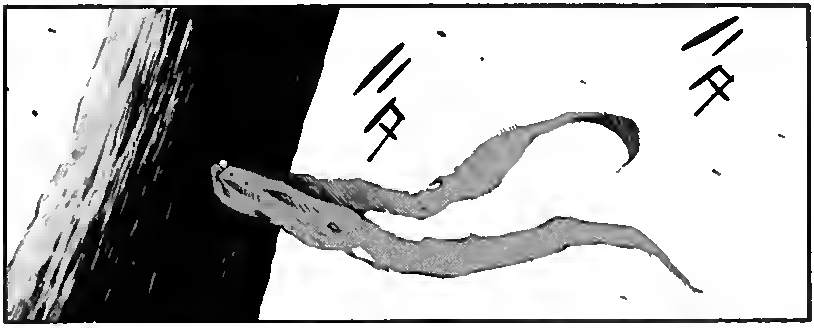
Once you decide to kill someone, not only your target enemy,
but all who are related to them are to be killed I'm sure I taught him that...

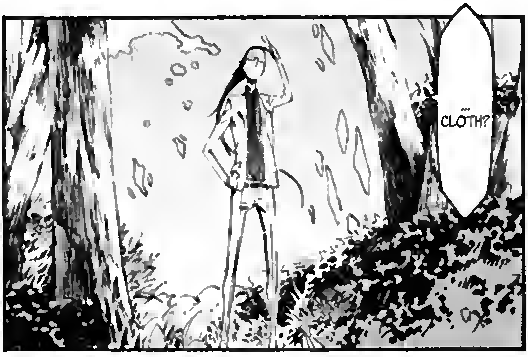



.....
BUT,

I SHOULD BE GETTING CLOSER TO IORI-CHAN..


I'M REALLY STARTING TO GET TIRED OF THIS DULL PATH...
AM I NOT THERE YET?

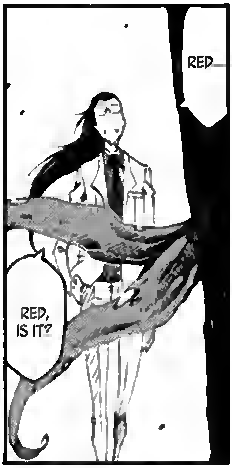



CLOTH?

...WHAT IS THAT?
The younger Sawarabi sister who specializes in long distance attacks is dead.

IS IT AN ORDINARY RED CLOTH?

Ukuku
It's not like it's the red of Mankind's Strong~


RED...
RED, IS IT?

-EST...
HAA
HAA
!?
HA
HA
HA
YO...

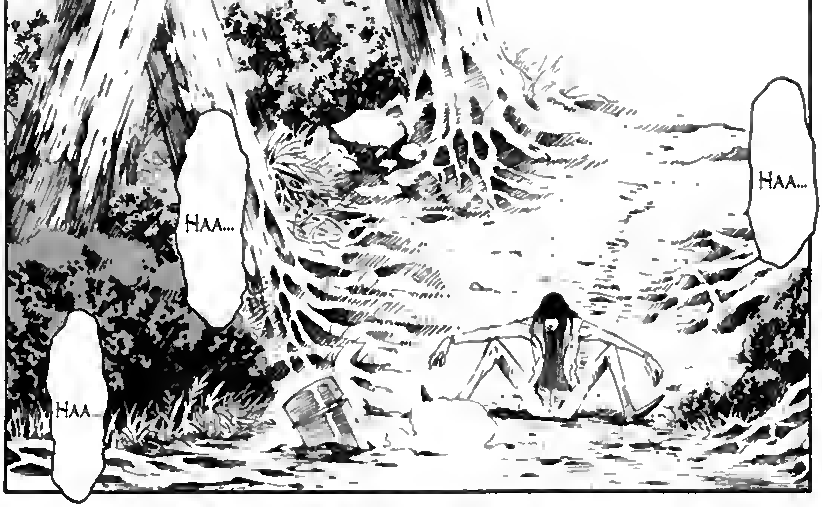
YOU CALLED?

UOOHHH
!
SHALL WE PLAY A GAME OF TAG?
ALL RIGHT

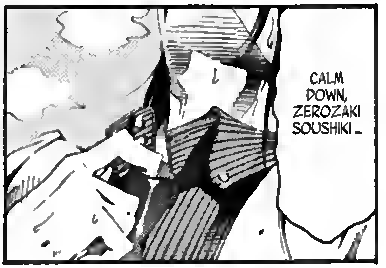
OWAH
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE BRINGING HERE?!!
ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME SAWARABI!!

Zeʌʌ
Ze
ʌʌ
Zeʌʌ
DAMN IT.
THERE WAS NO BLOOD-LUST OR ANY PRESENCE.
THERE WAS NO ONE IN THE AREA.
WHY?
WHY...?

WHY WON'T YOU LIGHT?
ISN'T A ZIPPO A TOOL FOR LIGHTING, HUH?!!


HAA...
HAA...
HAA...

IT'S ALL RIGHT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT...


CALM DOWN, ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI...

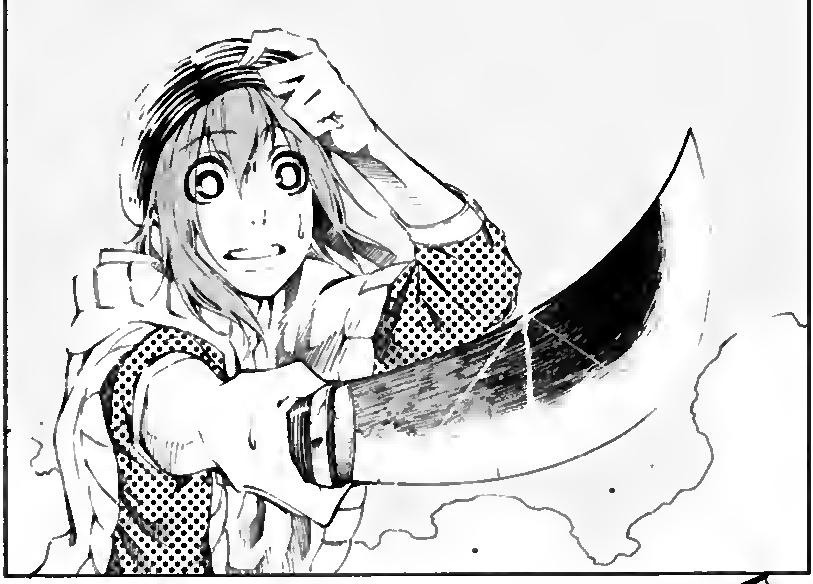
IT'S ALL RIGHT...
SEE... IT'S LIGHTING FINE NOW

I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A MOUNTAIN. IF I GET THE SLIP ON HER ONCE, THERE'S NO WAY SHE'LL FIND ME.

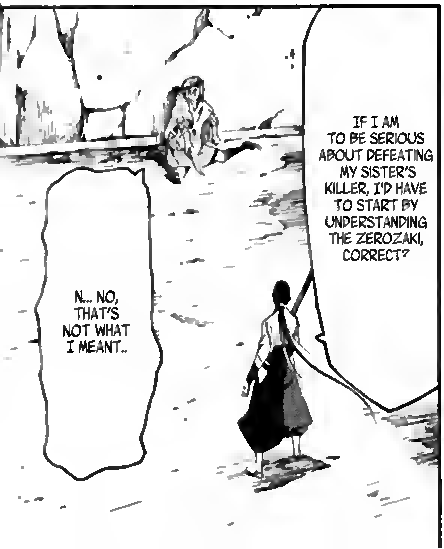
IT'S AL-
YOUR GLASSES-
HERE.
YOU DROPPED THEM.

Zzz
UWAH ?!

Ouowow...
THERE'S NO LONGER ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE
THAT'S HOW IT IS, ISN'T IT?
!?
SO.. IT REALLY IS THAT WAY.
WH.. WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ALL OF A-
Su...?



WHAT IS THIS?!!
HYAHH


IF I AM TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT DEFEATING MY SISTER'S KILLER, I'D HAVE TO START BY UNDERSTANDING THE ZEROZAKI, CORRECT?
N... NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT..

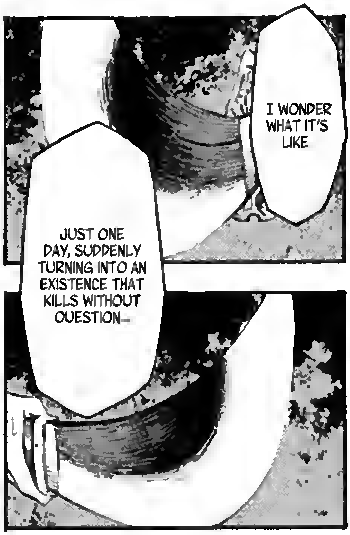
CONGRATULATIONS. YOU'VE MOVED UP FROM BAIT TO GUINEA PIG.
BY THE WAY, THIS IS JUST AN EXPERIMENT.

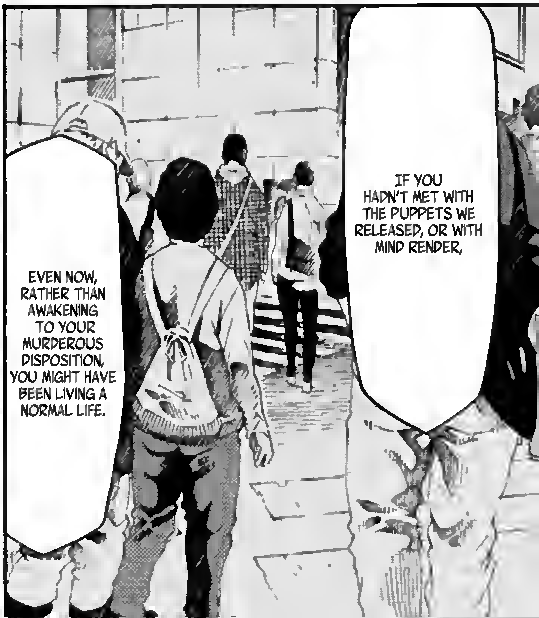
I'M TALKING ABOUT WHY I'M HOLDING SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!
WERE YOU TOO UNCONSCIOUS TO NOTICE?
BEFORE EVEN TAKING IN YOUR SURROUNDINGS..
OR ESCAPING TO A SAFE PLACE, YOU-
PICKED UP A WEAPON AND POINTED ITS BLADE AT ME.
I WONDER IF THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL "DISPOSITION" RATHER THAN "TALENT".

HOMICIDAL MONSTERS WHO KILL WITH NOTHING MORE THAN SIMPLE AND AMPLE MURDEROUS INTENT.
THE ZERO-ZAKI'S DISPO-SITION
P... PLEASE DON'T TWIST THIS TO YOUR CONVENIENCE!
ALL I DID WAS GRAB SOMETHING THAT WAS NEAR MY HAND ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT AND..
ALL I DID?!
DID YOU SAY "ALL I DID"?!
THEN ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LET THAT THING GO.
HII
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

That's a tool for killing people.

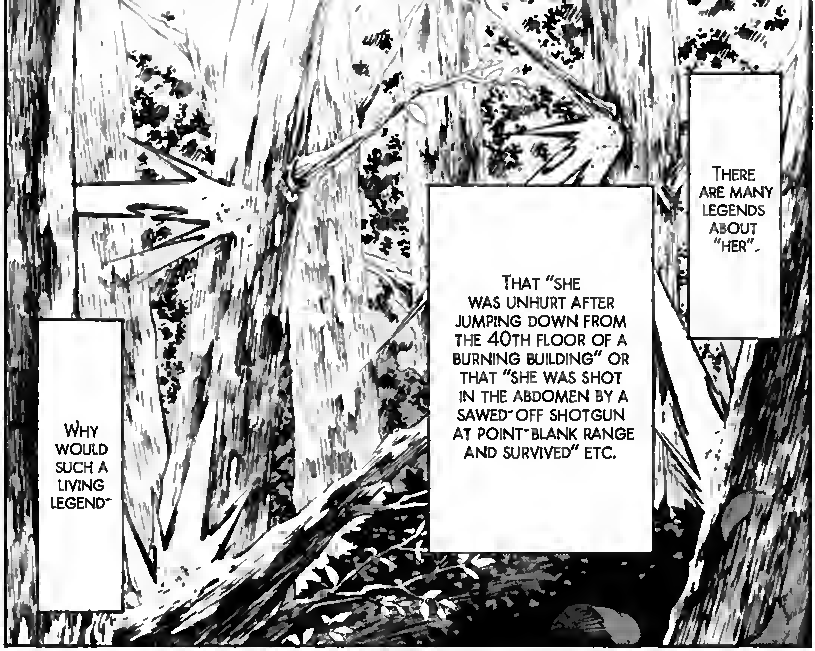
YOU KNOW, IORI-SAN,
DESPITE ALL THIS, AS ONE WHO HAD A YOUNGER SISTER,
I DO SYMPATHIZE WITH YOU

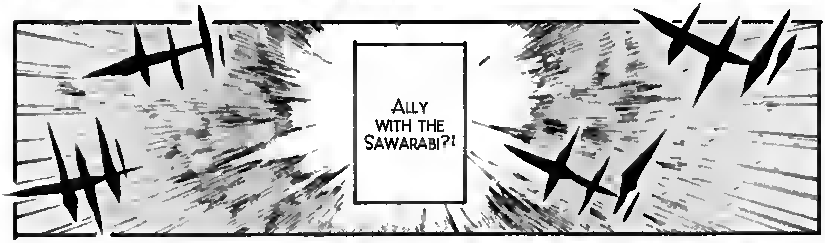

I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE
JUST ONE DAY, SUDDENLY TURNING INTO AN EXISTENCE THAT KILLS WITHOUT QUESTION—


IF YOU HADN'T MET WITH THE PUPPETS WE RELEASED, OR WITH MIND RENDER,
EVEN NOW, RATHER THAN AWAKENING TO YOUR MURDEROUS DISPOSITION, YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN LIVING A NORMAL LIFE.

IN A SENSE, FOR THE PART OF YOUR LIFE YOU LIVED NORMALLY,
YOU MIGHT BE MORE PITIFUL THAN MY SISTER WHO WAS MADE TO BE A HITMAN SINCE THE MOMENT SHE WAS BORN.
DON'T YOU THINK?
BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T ACTUALLY KILLED ANYONE YET,
THROUGH MY KINDNESS, I THOUGHT I'D OFFER YOU A CHOICE.
EH...?
IS IT... THAT THOSE CHOICES ARE TO LIVE AS A "ZEROZAKI" OR AS AN "ORDINARY PERSON"?
ARE YOU GOING TO... LET ME GO?
PLEASE DON'T BE NAIVE
I'M NOT YOUR OLDER BROTHER

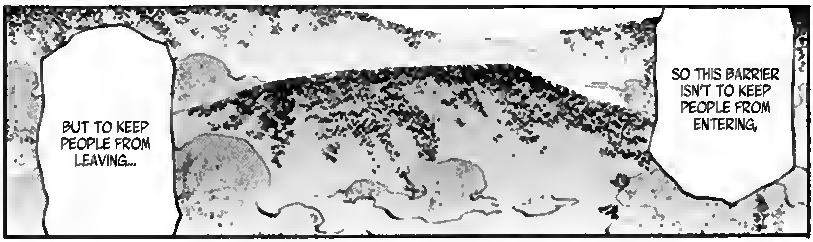
YOU CAN COMMIT SUICIDE WITH THAT DAGGER, OR DIE BY MY NAGINATA.
THOSE ARE YOUR CHOICES.


There are many legends about "her".
That "she was unhurt after jumping down from the 40th floor of a burning building" or that "she was shot in the abdomen by a sawed-off shotgun at point-blank range and survived" etc.
Why would such a living legend-


Ally with the Sawarabi?!

!!

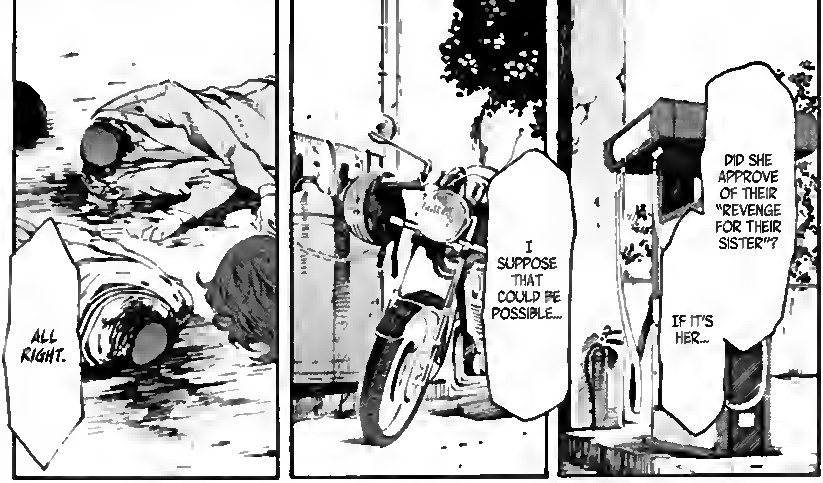
GAS STATION
HERE AGAIN?!
I'VE BEEN GOING IN CIRCLES AROUND THE SAME PLACE SINCE EARLIER ...

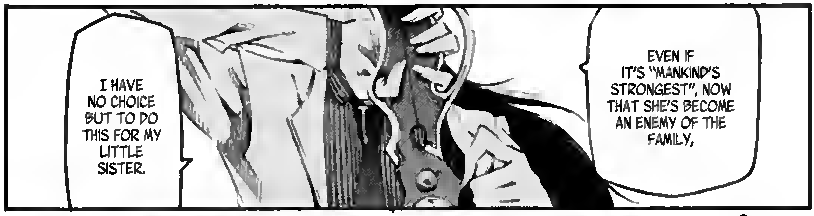

SO THIS BARRIER ISN'T TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM ENTERING,
BUT TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM LEAVING...

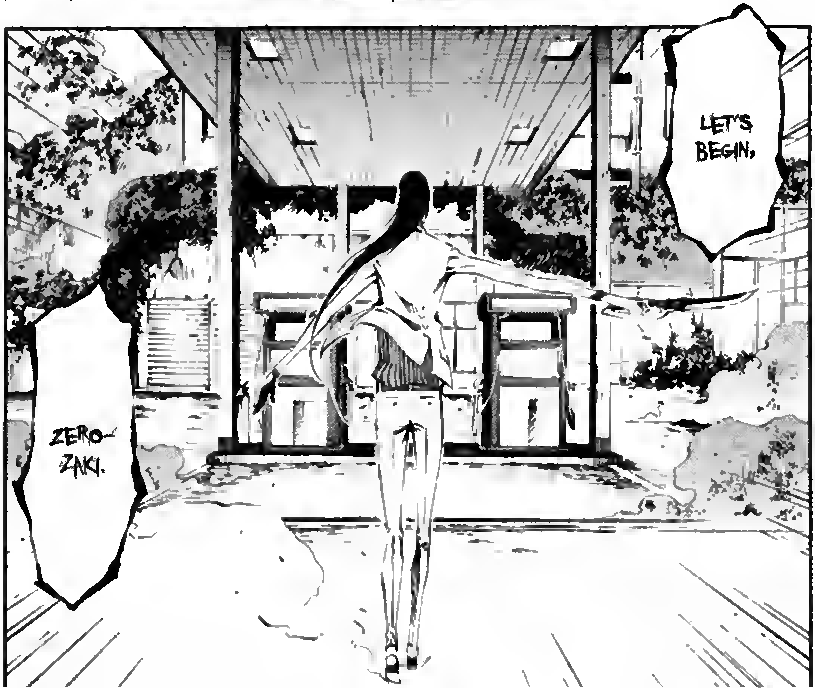
BUT...
THANKS TO THAT, I'VE CALMED DOWN A BIT ..

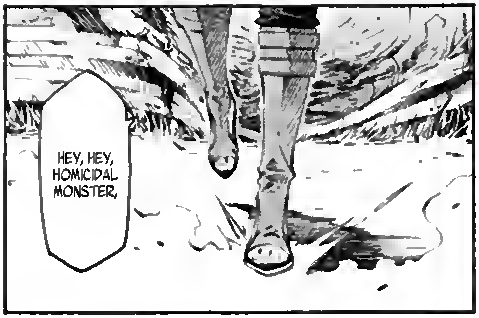
.....

.....
SHE'S MESSING AROUND

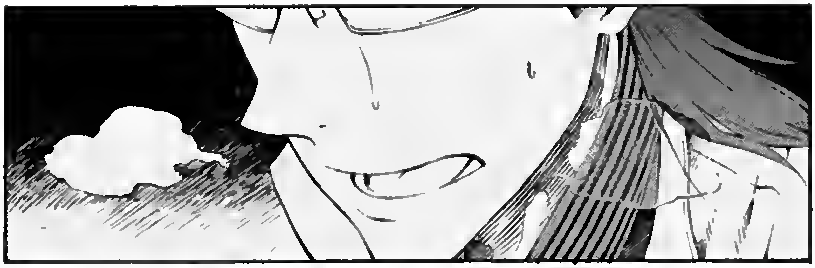

ALL RIGHT.
I SUPPOSE THAT COULD BE POSSIBLE...
DID SHE APPROVE OF THEIR "REVENGE FOR THEIR SISTER"?
IF IT'S HER...

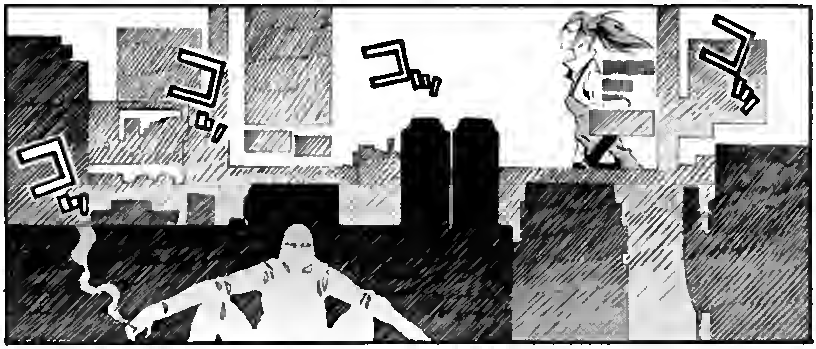

I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO THIS FOR MY LITTLE SISTER.
EVEN IF IT'S "MANKIND'S STRONGEST", NOW THAT SHE'S BECOME AN ENEMY OF THE FAMILY,


LET'S BEGIN,
ZERO-ZAKI.

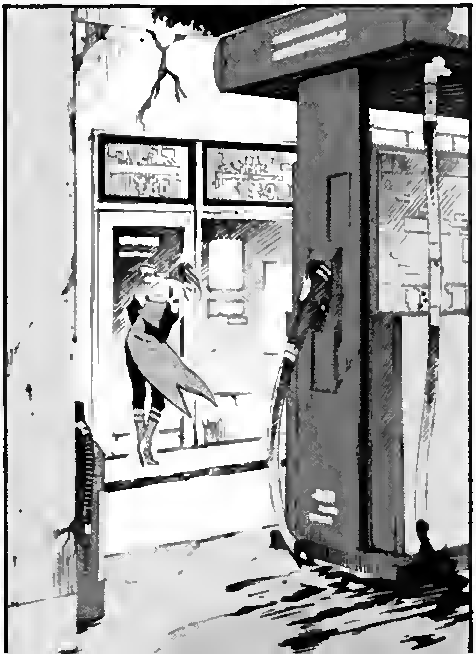

HEY, HEY, HOMICIDAL MONSTER,

FIRST IT'S TAG, NOW HIDE AND SEEK?




コッ
コッ
コッ

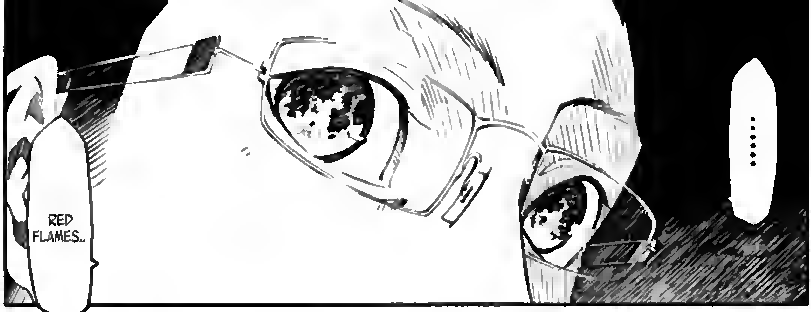
fire- you-
rea- dy-

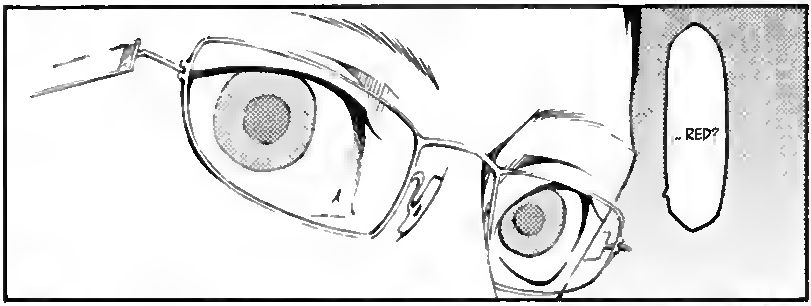


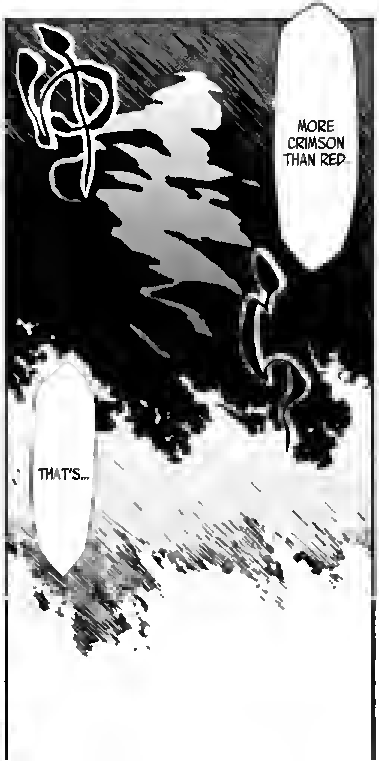
HUH?!
I wonder where you've run off to.
..THERE!
NO-W

GAS STATION

FUU
TO THINK, MY FIRST MEETING WITH THE WOMAN I LOOK UP TO WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY.
UFUFU
I'M HEADING OVER NOW, IORI-CHAN.
I'LL TAKE THIS CHANCE TO MAKE A STRATEGIC RETREAT.
I DON'T THINK SOMETHING LIKE THIS CAN KILL THE "STRONGEST", BUT
A GOOD AMOUNT OF HER BATTLE POWER SHOULD BE WHITTLED DOWN.
ピキ
ピキ


RED FLAMES..
.....


.. RED?


MORE CRIMSON THAN RED
THAT'S...

Hey
You're joking, right ...?
IT'S NOT CERTAIN WHO GAVE HER THE NAME, BUT ANYONE WHO REFERS TO HER, CALLS HER THIS.
THAT WOMAN IS-

MANKIND'S STRONGEST

I found myself.
A HOMICIDAL MONSTER.

QUESTION 12 END

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ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN

by NisiOisiN and SHIOMIYA Iruka

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QUESTION 13
HEY, HITOSHIKI,
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
...
WHAT THE HELL ANIKI...
YOU WERE UP?
WANDERING OFF AGAIN ...?
WHERE ARE YOU HEADED TO?
.....
THERE'S SOMEONE I REALLY WANNA MEET
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THEY ARE OR WHERE THEY'RE FROM, BUT...
WHEN I MEET THEN, I JUST KNOW-

SO I'LL CATCH YOU LATER ANIKI.
REALLY... EVEN THOUGH HE'S MY LITTLE BROTHER, I DON'T UNDER-STAND HIM.
THAT SOMETHING'S GONNA HAPPEN
SURELY-
BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I ACCEPT YOU, HITOSHIKI.
ハァ
ハァ
That's what "family" is, right?

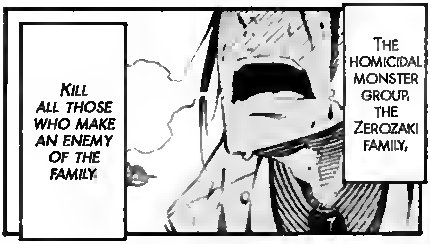
QUESTION 13

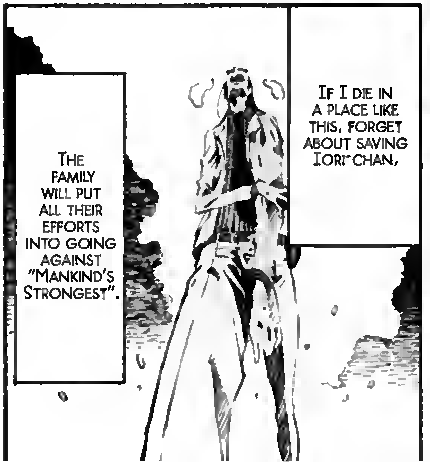
I HAVE TO ESCAPE SOMEHOW...
NOT HERE...
I can't be killed by an existence like that!!
I'M PRETTY TIRED.
OF THIS HIDE AND SEEK.

Earkh
splikker

OH
OH
OH
OH

ザザザ


KILL ALL THOSE WHO MAKE AN ENEMY OF THE FAMILY.
THE HOMICIDAL MONSTER GROUP, THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY,


IF I DIE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, FORGET ABOUT SAVING IORI-CHAN,
THE FAMILY WILL PUT ALL THEIR EFFORTS INTO GOING AGAINST "MANKIND'S STRONGEST".

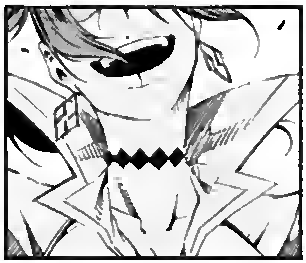
THAT ALONE...
THAT ALONE, I HAVE TO AVOID...
AN EXISTENCE THAT SEEMS SO IMPOSSIBLE TO KILL...
I CAN'T GET THE FAMILY WRAPPED UP IN SUCH A FUTILE AND HOPELESS FIGHT.
THE FAMILY...
I* WILL PROTECT THE FAMILY...
WHAT'S WRONG, HOMICIDAL MONSTER?
I HELD BACK ENOUGH TO NOT KILL YOU DID YOU DIE ANYWAY?
WEAK... YOU'RE WEAK TOO WEAK...
SO... WELL, MEAGER.

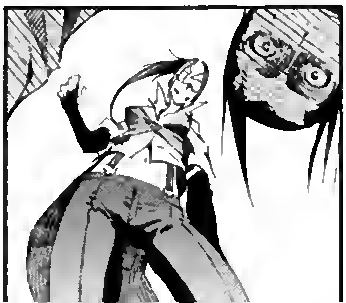
*T/N: KANJI READS ELDEST SON.

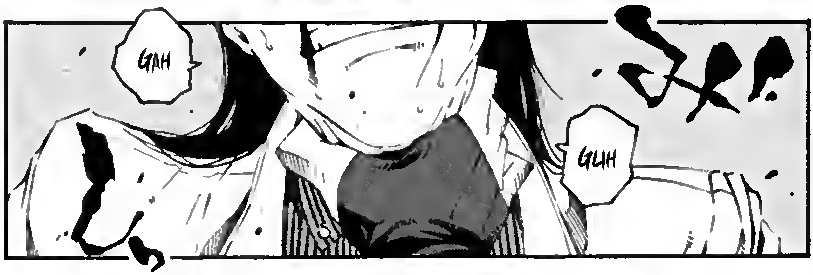
TRY HARDER
YOUR DEAR LITTLE SISTER'S WAITING FOR YOU, RIGHT?
"MANKIND'S STRONGEST"
THAT COMPOSURE, THAT NEGLIGENCE, THAT RESULTS FROM BEING THE STRONGEST.
!!
ALLOW ME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM!!

WHAT ...?

DID YOU WANT MY HEAD?
TH...
THAT... CAN'T BE..
I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND
!?
GUO HH

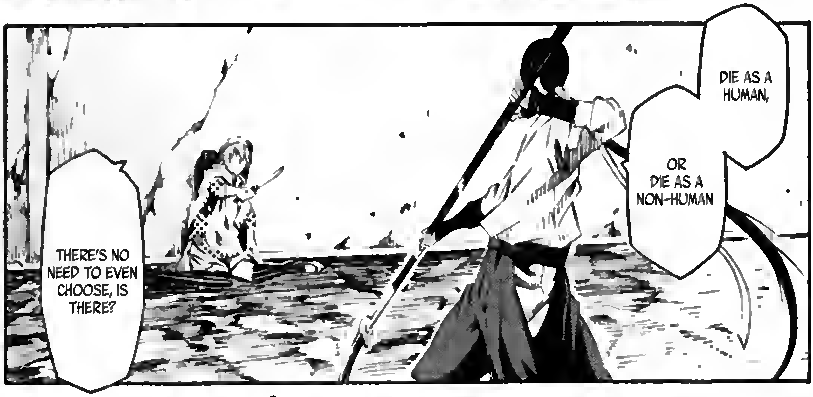





GAH
GUH

I... ori... -chan...
HAH
THE SAWARABI AND THE ZEROZAKI ARE THE SAME. GOING ON ABOUT THEIR SISTER AND FAMILY.
YOU LOOK RIDICULOUS RISKING YOUR LIVES FOR SUCH WORTHLESS THINGS.

AND DIE HERE.
OBSESS OVER THAT WORTHLESS REASON ALL YOU WANT.


DIE AS A HUMAN,
OR DIE AS A NON-HUMAN
THERE'S NO NEED TO EVEN CHOOSE, IS THERE?

OR DO YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT YOU AREN'T A ZEROZAKI?

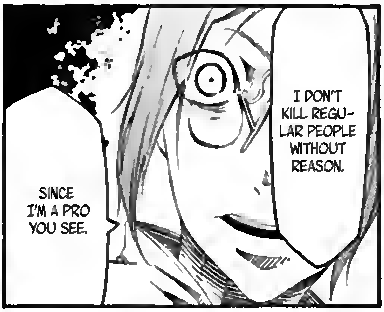
WERE YOU A "NORMAL", REGULAR PERSON, NEITHER YOUR FAMILY NOR YOUR CLASSMATES WOULD HAVE DIED
TH... THAT'S...

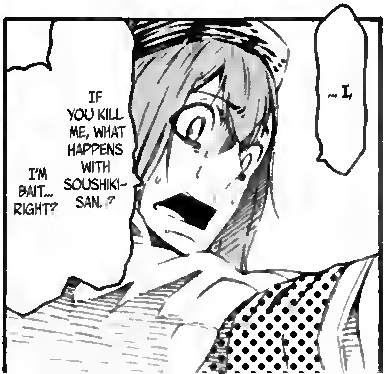
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL "NORMAL"
THEN YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR OWN LIFE BEFORE YOU COMPLETELY BECOME A HOMICIDAL MONSTER.

WHAT I'M SAYING, IS THAT YOU WILL INEVITABLY STOP BEING "NORMAL"
HOW-EVER-
THAT WAY, YOU WON'T SUFFER AND YOU CAN DIE PEACE-FULLY.
OR WOULD YOU LIKE FOR ME TO KILL YOU?

Eh?

Mind Render has already fallen into our trap.
YOUR ROLE AS BAIT IS ALREADY OVER.
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?

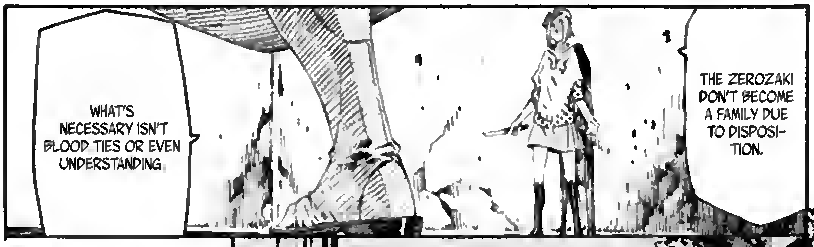

SINCE I'M A PRO YOU SEE.
I DON'T KILL REGU-LAR PEOPLE WITHOUT REASON.


I'M BAIT... RIGHT?
IF YOU KILL ME, WHAT HAPPENS WITH SOUSHIKI-SAN.?
~ I,

HE'S... HERE? SOUSHIKI-SAN...
AND HE SAID HE DIDN'T COME HERE TO SAVE ME. THAT GUY...
!
DURING THE IMPORTANT TIMES, HE'S ALWAYS THERE BESIDE ME.
I UNDER-STAND... WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, NAGUMA-SAN..

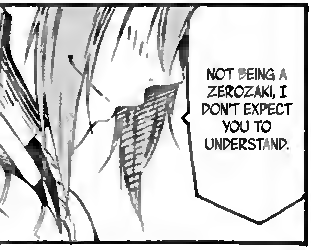
I'VE BEEN THINKING THIS WHOLE TIME TOO...
WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS "ZERO-ZAKI"...?
.....?
THE LIVES OF THEIR OWN FAMILY TAKE FIRST PRIORITY, DESPITE THEIR COMPLETE INDIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF OTHERS.
THEY DON'T FEEL ANY GUILT WHEN THEY KILL PEOPLE
THEY'RE SO FAR OFF THE RIGHT PATH, THAT IF YOU USE COMMON SENSE, YOU CAN ONLY DESCRIBE THEM AS BEING "EVIL".
THEIR STRANGE AFFINITY, UNCONDI-TIONAL TRUST,
CREATION OF A FAMILY, AND EVEN THE ACT OF KILLING PEOPLE.. IT'S NOTHING BUT THEIR OWN DISPOSITION.
IT REALLY MIGHT BE BETTER TO DIE NOW INSTEAD OF BECOMING A MEMBER OF A GROUP LIKE THAT.
.....
BUT YOU KNOW..
That's wrong.
.....
Wrong ?

THE WORST HOMICIDAL MONSTER GROUP, THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING IS "WRONG" ...?
ISN'T THAT HOW THEY ARE?


WHAT'S NECESSARY ISN'T BLOOD TIES OR EVEN UNDERSTANDING.
THE ZEROZAKI DON'T BECOME A FAMILY DUE TO DISPOSITION.

EVEN THOUGH ALL I DO IS RUN AWAY, AND I'M SO HOPELESS, SOUSHIKI-SAN ACCEPTED ME.
WHAT IT MEANS TO BECOME A "FAMILY".
But to accept.
I'M SURE THAT IS-

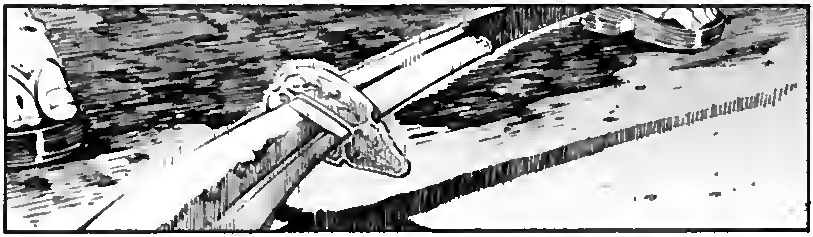
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?

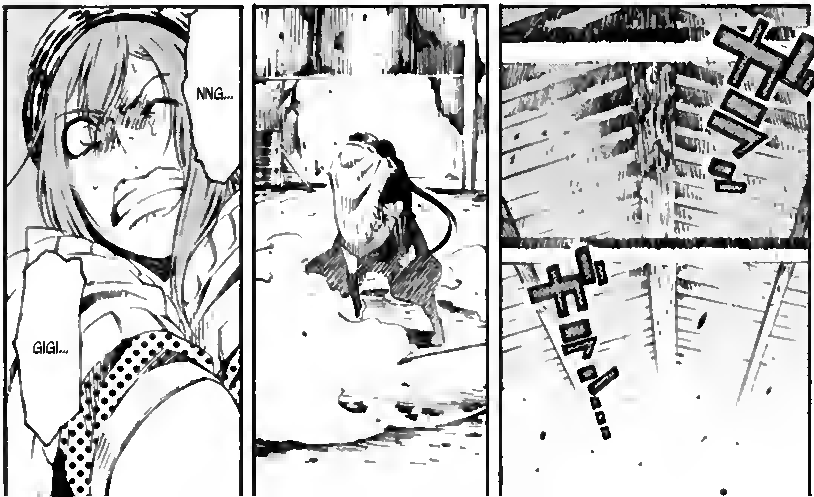

NOT BEING A ZEROZAKI, I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND.

I don't want to make my older brother cry ever again.

He said to me.
Let's become family.

I'M TALKING ABOUT LITTLE SISTERS!!



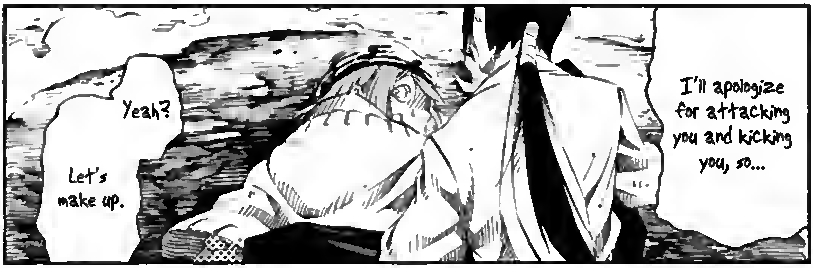

NNG...
GIGI...
ドクン
ドクン...

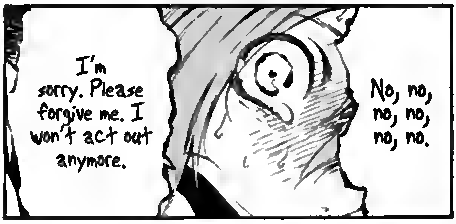
HH
PLEASE DON'T UNDERESTIMATE OTHERS SO.
DID YOU THINK THE SAME TRICK WOULD WORK TWICE?

NO MATTER MUCH TALENT YOU MAY HAVE,
It can't bridge the vast gap between you and a pro.
UNAH

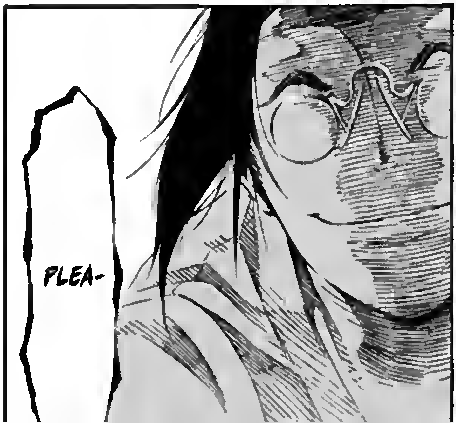
NEVER-THE-LESS,
UGUH
I CAN SEE WHY MIND RENDER SEALED THOSE ARMS OF YOURS...
IT'S DANGEROUS WHEN NAILS GET TOO LONG.
LET ME GROOM THEM FOR YOU

Wait... you're joking right?
Don't... please don't...


I'll apologize for attacking you and kicking you, so...
Yeah?
Let's make up.


I'm sorry. Please forgive me. I won't act out anymore.
No, no, no, no, no, no.

N... no.

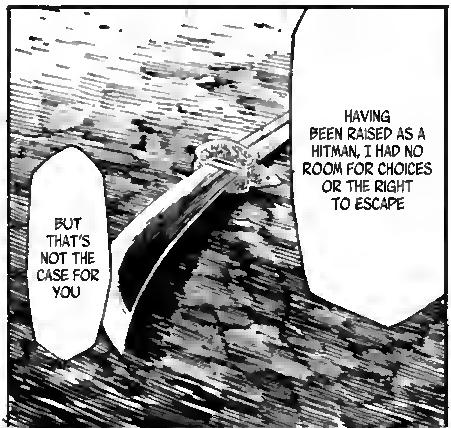

PLEA-

AGH
IYAAA
HHHH

Shall I do the other hand one nail at a time?
AH.
OH...
EH...
HH
GH
IGH

UH
EUH
UHH

EH
HOW ABOUT IT?
HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH?
EUH
THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD


HAVING BEEN RAISED AS A HITMAN, I HAD NO ROOM FOR CHOICES OR THE RIGHT TO ESCAPE
BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE FOR YOU

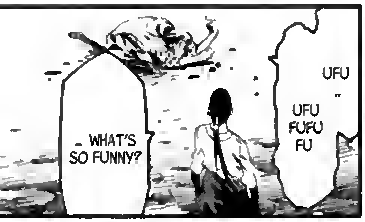
EVEN IF YOU MEET WITH PEOPLE, YOU CAN THINK OF NOTHING BUT KILLING.
WHAT MEANING IS THERE TO LIFE IF YOU HAVE TO GO SO FAR TO LIVE?

NOW... THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE.
PLEASE CHOOSE.

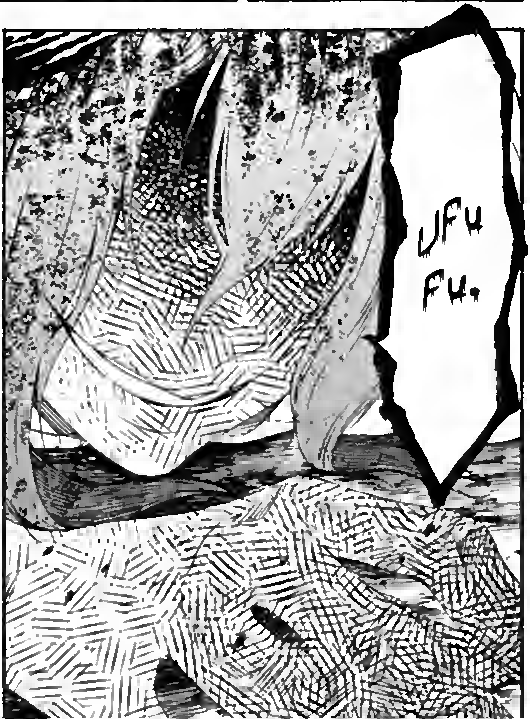
...UH

IORI-SAN?
.....

ピクッ

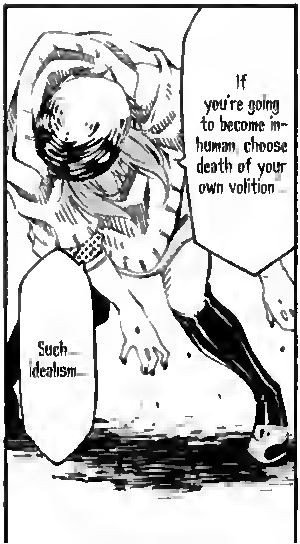

UFU
..
UFU FUFU FU
...WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

OHH. SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
IN THE END, YOU-


UFU FU.

WANT ME TO CHOOSE, DON'T YOU?

WHAT-


If you're going to become inhuman, choose death of your own volition.
Such idealism.

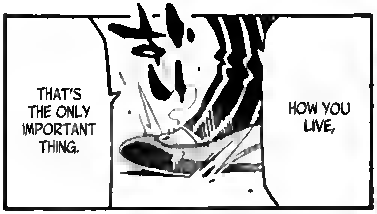
WHY IS SHE GETTING UP?!
SHE'S JUST A LITTLE GIRL AND SHE'S BEEN PUT THROUGH SO MUCH PAIN.

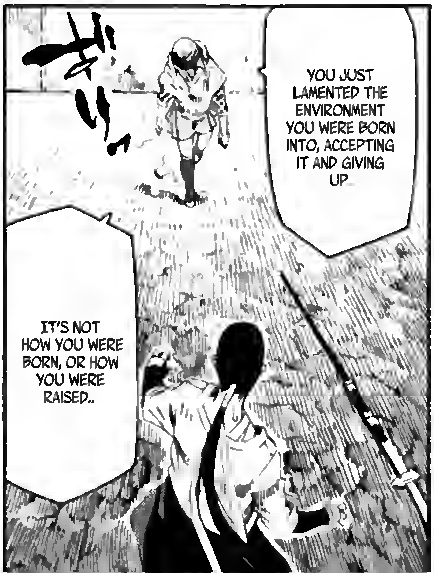
KOJIKA-KUN-
IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE IF WE COULD'VE GONE SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY TOGETHER...
JION-
I-DIDN'T WANT TO KILL YOU..
ONII-SAN, ONEE-SAN, DAD, MOM-
BUT... ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, IT WOULD HAVE EVENTUALLY CAUGHT UP TO ME...
BECAUSE I'M SURE... I WAS LIKE THIS FROM THE MOMENT I WAS BORN...
WE WEREN'T CLOSE, BUT I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO DIE

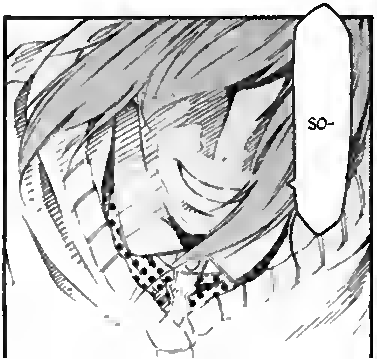
SO AT THE VERY LEAST,
THROUGH MY OWN WILL, RIGHT NOW, I-
SOUSHIKI-SAN-
I'VE BEEN LIVING MY LIFE JUST RUNNING AWAY FROM MYSELF AND AVERTING MY EYES FROM MY OWN DISPOSITION.
WILL CHOOSE.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS, EVEN THOUGH YOU TOOK CARE OF ME IN SO MANY WAYS...
THE POSSIBILITIES AND FUTURE THAT EVERYONE HOPED FOR ME NEVER EXISTED TO BEGIN WITH.

NAGUMA-SAN...
WHY DIDN'T YOU CHOOSE DEATH BEFORE BECOMING INHUMAN?
!?
IT'S TRUE THAT YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE RUN AWAY LIKE I DID...
BUT-

ISN'T IT ALSO TRUE THAT YOU'VE NEVER ONCE HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE OF YOUR OWN?


HOW YOU LIVE,
THAT'S THE ONLY IMPORTANT THING.


YOU JUST LAMENTED THE ENVIRONMENT YOU WERE BORN INTO, ACCEPTING IT AND GIVING UP...
IT'S NOT HOW YOU WERE BORN, OR HOW YOU WERE RAISED..

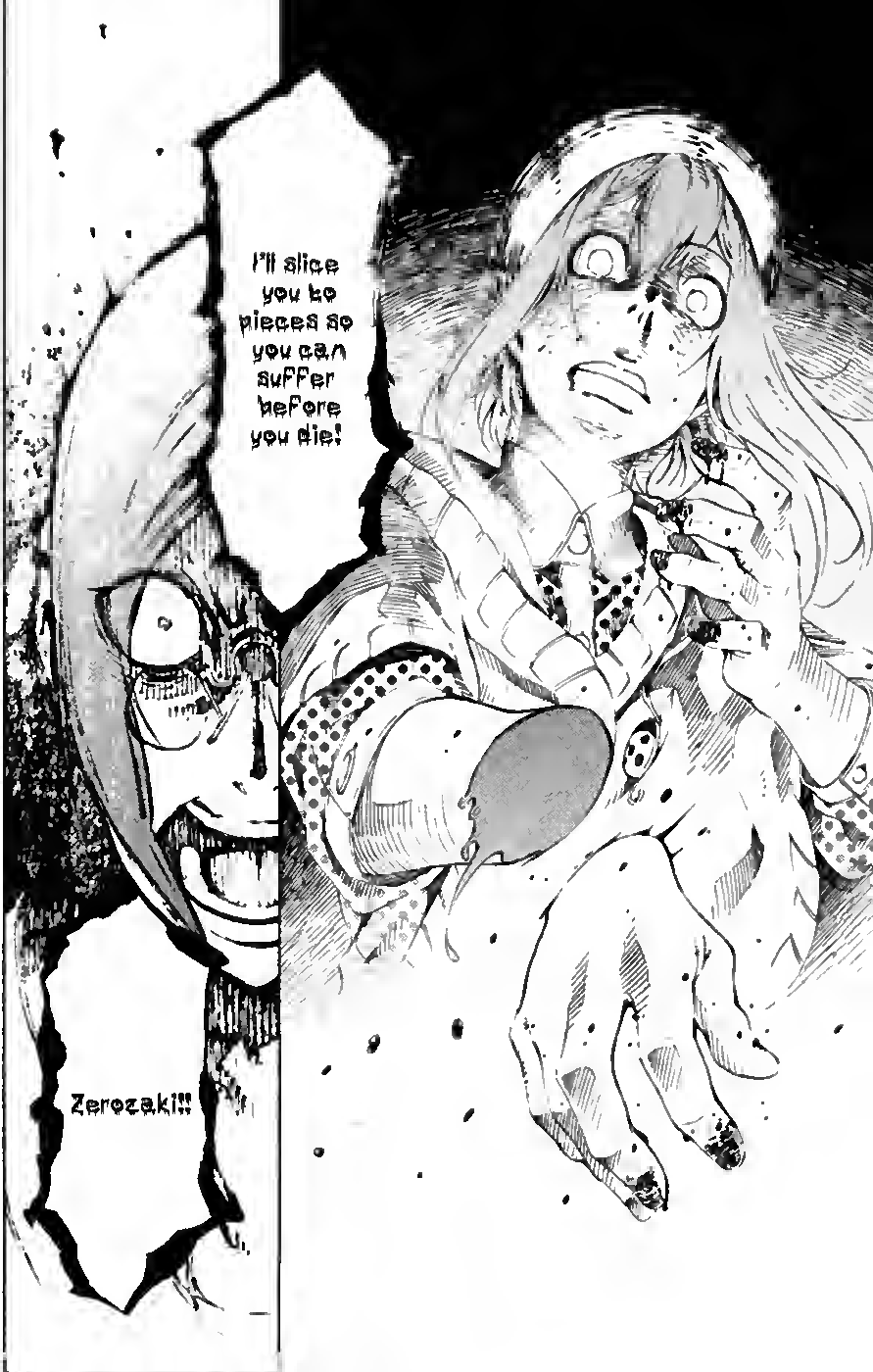

SO-

I WILL LIVE.
NO MATTER WHAT I BECOME.

You should've seen that deathmatch on the rooftop!
That world my sister so badly wanted to escape, so as to even wish for her own death..
Are you saying you're intentionally heading towards it?!
I WON'T RUN!
I WON'T DIE!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I DIRTY MY HANDS, AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL ACCEPT ME,
I'LL ACCEPT TALENT, DISPOSITION, ALL OF IT!!
AND I'LL LIVE.

...Jat
GET REAL... LITTLE GIRL...
YOU'RE A BRAT THAT AWOKE AS A HOMICIDAL MONSTER JUST YESTERDAY OR TODAY.
DON'T TALK LIKE YOU KNOW ANYTHING!
THOSE WHO EXPERIENCED JOY AND SORROW WITH YOU, THOSE YOU SHOULD LOVE;
EVEN LITTLE GIRLS WHO HELD NO GRUDGES AGAINST YOU, YOU'VE NEVER HAD TO OPPRESS ANYONE LIKE THAT!

I'M NOT GIVING YOU A PEACEFUL DEATH ANYMORE!

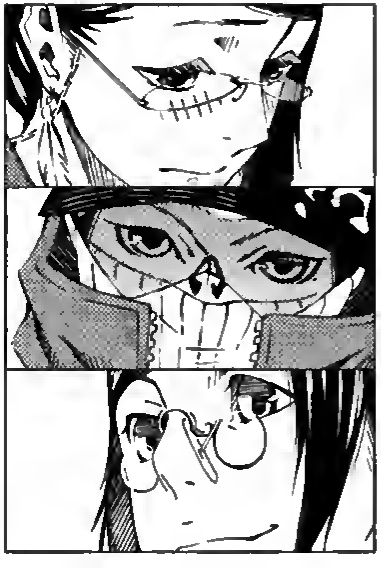

I'll slice you to pieces so you can suffer before you die!
Zerozaki!!!

① Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken

That was volume three of the comic version of "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken". There are time when even I think about the difference between manga and light novels. Even though it's the same story, if I were to say what that different was, I sometimes think it's the degree of how much is left to the reader, and sometimes not. There's an extremely famous saying that goes "a picture is worth a thousand words." Well, if I were to go with that point of view, then maybe the "thousand words" would be the light novel, and the "picture" would be the manga? Inevitably, if I tried to write and draw the same thing, you'd think the light novel would be more massive- but it's not. Actually, the "Ningen Shiken" light novel is one book, while the manga is already at 3, and it's still going. There's a limit to the size of panels in manga, so I can't say certain things in certain ways, but generally speaking, I wonder how much it would take in a light novel (in sentences) to express one manga panel. As an example- it's often said that writing "100,000 people" only takes 6 characters*, but it would be difficult to express through manga. Well, even "100,000 people" would be difficult to describe in detail with just 6 characters, but even in manga, you can draw a character saying "Uwahh, there are 100,000 people!" while looking outside a window, so one person would suffice. So I can't say there's one general rule- If I gave such examples, there'd be no end, but more importantly, I feel that there isn't a clear difference between manga and short novels.

If you look at both manga and short novels as a means of "conveying" something, I think the difference might be the method of conveyance. This might lead people to say, "then they're the same", but as long as the method is different, there will be a disparity. When making it a goal to "convey", if I were to say what the pro of "light novels" is, I think it's probably that you "can explain". And if I were to say what the pro of "manga" is, I think it's that you "can show". I'm not saying that either is better. I'm not exactly sure how to put it. Maybe, they're both good, or the grass is greener on the other side. And I wonder if I can do both (if I did both, it would turn into a picture book, but sort of different). If I said it using another proverb, maybe- light novels is "the pudding", and manga is "the proof". In other words, "The proof is in the pudding"? If we say that it's easier to convey things in manga, light novels would be in a pinch. However, the light novel's merit which corresponds to that might be the point of "not saying everything". For those who don't want to say or convey everything they want to say, light novels might be a better genre for them.

*T/N: ALTHOUGH THE KANJI FOR SIBLINGS OR "KYOUDAI", ONLY USES "OLD BROTHER" AND "YOUNGER BROTHER", THIS TERM CAN ALSO IMPLY FEMALE SIBLINGS. YOU CAN USE OTHER COMBINATIONS TO SPECIFY GENDER AND AGE DIFFERENCES BUT GENERALLY SPEAKING, YOU ALMOST ALWAYS SEE THE WORD "KYOUDAI" FOR SIBLINGS IN GENERAL.
**THE KANJI FOR THE WEAPON EACH SIBLING USES IS PART OF THEIR NAME



When you say "the proof is in the pudding", it's true that the "pudding" part is what matters when you want to correctly convey something. But if you're a writer who wants to use some sort of scheme (describing trick?), maybe it's more "the pudding is in the proof". Or if I want to avoid any misunderstandings, "deceptive" light novels might be easier to write for those people.

In summary, if someone asked me what what my point was, I'd say, as usual, not much really. But well, like with this "Ningen Shiken", this undertaking of turning a light novel into a manga I think naturally entails a lot of difficulties, but I'm happy that it was done magnificently. And I'm so excited to see how the story will turn out in the second half! What of Soushiki's fate?! Of Iori's fate?! And what about Soushiki Hitoshiki?! It's not that I forgot the contents of the story. I just come across a lot of startling things while reading. It really makes me think that the impact of drawings is truly different from light novels.

If this becomes animated, "movement" and "music" will also become involved, but if it gets that far, generally speaking, it will become difficult to tell the story.

② The Three Sawarabi Siblings

Here are the three Sawarabi siblings.
Writing out "siblings" is complicated. If you use "kyoudai" the younger sister is included. If you use "keimai" the younger brother disappears. If you use "teimai" the old brother goes off somewhere. And if you use all three characters, you don't know how to read it*. Well, out of convenience, I'll use "three siblings".
Sawarabi Hawatari covers short range, Sawarabi Naguma covers mid range, and Sawarabi Yumiya covers long range. Their names are extended into their weapons**. Their battle tactics are obvious. What confidence.
"Sawarabi" is the title of one of the Genji Monogatari books. And when the "Sawarabi" became a branch family, the "Niounomiya", who were then treated as the main family, is also the title of a Genji Monogatari book. They don't appear in "Ningen Shiken", but there are other branch families, like the "Miotsukushi" and "Agemaki"- There may be 54 families which correspond to the 54 books. Maybe all the families will appear in the comic version?! (They won't.)

⑤ Fox Mask Man

This mysterious character with a mysterious air that suddenly appears, is the last boss of the "Ningen Series"'s sister series, the "Zaregoto Series". I'm pretty sure that when he appeared in this reflection, it was around the time he was gathering subordinates (he was trying to create an organization called the "Thirteen Stairs"), And was trying to invite Sawarabi Hawatari to be a member. Though, he was refused.

Actually, I'm pretty sure he only gathered half the members for the "Thirteen Stairs", even when he appeared in the "Zaregoto Series"..

That might mean that not too many people would accept such an invitation.

⑥ Bound High School Girl

This was made into a figure and included with a limited edition copy or something. I can't help but ask how this happened.

Although people in the modern age don't usually get hung from the ceiling if they lived normal lives, it's pretty scary, and it looks rather painful. And for Iori-san to sleep peacefully through that, she's rather bold. I'm sure Naguma-san was surprised too. He probably thought this girl's not normal.

③ Sawarabi Yumiya

The bow wielder, Yumiya-san, basically only appeared in monologues in the original light novel. So seeing her movements and fighting figure portrayed in the comic version made me extremely happy. Though, she was killed. She was a younger sister who held complicated emotions towards her two older brothers. I didn't have that concept when I was writing the original light novel, and in the story line, I wasn't able to give her more of a role, but in these 10 years, I've had the chance to learn about something akin to the "appeal of the bow", so I'd like to write a tale with a bow wielder set as the main character some day. When I saw Yumiya-san's battle in the comic version, she really was cool.

④ Niounomiya Izumu

In the original light novel, this was a character that had some sort of role here and there. As the original author, this is still one of the characters I want to write. To put it intensely, within this worldview, his strength is top class- This character was one who put his strength in a relative world, then blew that relativity away. The only ones I can say are clearly stronger than Niounomiya Izumu would be Deep Crimson Death, who's mentioned later, and maybe one more?

Being able to portray that strength once more in drawing, it was such a ridiculous strength, it was fun. Nevertheless, in this "Ningen Shiken", he makes a guest-like appearance, so I wasn't able to tell much about Niounomiya Izumu, but that only increased his mystery that much more, and the impact was immense. Not only his battle power, but his character is also strong.

⑨ Mutoh Iori

Her arm!

Title-wise, "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken" clearly shows that the original light novel was written with Zerozaki Soushiki as the main character of the story, and if I had to say, on a setting level, she would be the heroine . that wasn't really the situation, but during the process of writing, it wasn't something that happened unexpectedly, but something I worked on. It might not be an exaggeration to say she'll be the main character in the second half? If you carelessly put a name in a title, this sort of thing might happen, so it's very dangerous. In regards to "Ningen Shiken", Zerozaki Soushiki will rise to the occasion hereafter (though he looks like he's going to die), but a tragedy might occur which might make you think, wait, he's in the title but he doesn't play an active role?

Speaking of picking up the story, her continuing scene in the next volume is really something. Anyway, while we wonder how Mutoh Iori will turn out, both physically and mentally, let's look forward to the 4th volume of the comic version of "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken".

⑦ Deep Crimson Death

This is the one who was cast as the strongest character of this series up until the last volume.

If were to tell you stories about Deep Crimson Death, there'd be no end. But anyway, if there's one thing I can say at this moment, even for top class players like Zerozaki Soushiki and Niounomiya Izumu, she's not one to just glance over. She's an opponent you can't just leave be. Also, I kind of feel like the next volume's going to pick up from a nice point. Going back to the difference between manga and short novels, this stance-like approach of cliff hangers might become unexpectedly crucial.

Well, details will be in the next volume's Past Questions.

⑧ Zerozaki Hitoshiki

He sort of appears a little bit at a time.

Will he make it in time?

※収録されている内容は、作品の執筆年代・執筆された状況を考慮し、
コミックス発売当時のまま掲載しています。

零崎双識の人間試験(3)

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